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The Order of Solidarity

Chairman Kim Jong Il was awarded the Order of Solidarity by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba in February 1992.

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Front Cover: Children grow happily at the Pyongyang Baby Home

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: In the Mangyongdae Pleasure Ground

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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We Serve the People!

ON JANUARY 1, 1990, Chairman Kim Jong Il said that the functionaries of the Workers' Party of Korea should be faithful servants devoted to the people and put forward the slogan "We serve the people!" This slogan bespoke his political creed.

He regarded the popular masses' independent demands and interests as the absolute criterion in formulating all lines and policies, and made it an ironclad rule to approach and estimate everything from that angle. It was his invariable creed that in a people-centred socialist country where the popular masses are the master of everything and everything serves them, the Party and the state are in the service of the people and government is conducted for them and that, therefore, everything should be executed in their interests. He was wont to say: "We must make it a principle to give anything good to the people first."

"We have to do everything in the way the people want and like."

"Whatever we may do, we should pay primary attention to the improvement of the people's livelihood and devote everything to it."

"My mind is dominated simply by the thought of how to make our people happy and the best-off in the world."

"There is nothing to spare for our people and I would like to pick stars from the sky for them."

These words show his noble spirit to serve the people. He always gave priority to things related to the interests of the people and the masses. One January day in 2001 he pointed out to some officials that at the crossroads the cars with individual persons aboard took precedence of buses with people in them, that in his country things connected with the people and the masses should come first, and that all regulations running counter to the demands of the Juche idea and neglecting the people must be rectified. After that, buses and tramcars carrying passengers came to move on with priority over all other vehicles.

At every opportunity, he would stress: Whatever we may do, we must first consider and defend the people's interests. In case a road is constructed, it should serve the convenience of people, and coloured paving blocks should be produced and used to pave the busy sidewalks before anything else. One day when a yellow sandstorm blew up, he told officials concerned to inform the people about the sandstorm so that they might take necessary measures against it without delay. One day, after acquainting himself with the operation and management of the People's Palace of Culture, he said, "Many meetings are held in the People's Palace of Culture, and I think it is possible to use the palace for a meeting place. But it may as well be an all-round entertainment centre frequented by people including youths. To this end, the palace should be equipped better with up-to-date facilities to attract a large crowd of people."

Kim Jong Il liked best those officials who were addressed by people with the word "our" and spoke highly of them whenever he met them. In October 2003 he said, "People call those who are most devoted to their welfare 'our chief secretary,' 'our director,' 'our management board chairman,' and also call a neighbourhood unit head taking good care of them with the prefix of 'our.' The word 'our' is really a good expression with deep meaning. People and soldiers call their superiors with or without the prefix of 'our' with a different implication. 'Our' is not an official or honorary title. It is the highest title and appreciation given by the people and soldiers to the officials working with de- ▶

The Grand People's Study House stands prominently in the heart of Pyongyang.





The military parade and Pyongyangites' demonstration in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War display the single-hearted unity of the Workers' Party of Korea and the masses of the people (July 2013).

► votion to them and an expression of respect, love, trust and affinity for the true servants of the people. The word 'our' reflects vividly the true nature of our society where the national leader, the Party and the popular masses are united together in perfect harmony and all its people trust and love each other."

Defining the protection of the people's interests and ceaseless promotion of their welfare as the supreme principle of the Party activity, Kim Jong Il led the Party organizations and Party workers to fulfil their duty to the people, yielding new good things to them and solving in a responsible way difficult problems arising in their life.

In March 2006 he called on the builders of the Samsu Hydropower Station. He said to them he was there, for one thing, to see in person how the building of the dam was going on and, for another, to find out the situation of the construction of dwelling houses for the evacuees from the area to be submerged. Then, he gave instructions to complete the

building of the houses for the evacuees ahead of the power station.

Serving the people—this was his supreme criterion to estimate the merits of all works. His idea was that building a factory and producing a thing must serve the end of materially benefiting the people. Hearing that a foodstuff factory in a mountainous county was producing nutriments for children from sea tangle, he said he could not see why they were producing nutriments for children from sea tangle in a mountainous county far away from the sea. Then he added that the mountainous counties abound in wild fruits like wild grapes, fruit of *fructus actinidiae*, acorn and fruit of *Crataegus pinnatifida*, which they could use to make good nourishing foods.

In June 2002 he visited the Taedonggang Beer Factory. He said that some time before he had tasted the beer from the factory and found it not so good, and that high-quality beer had to be supplied to the people in

large quantity. Afterwards, when the factory improved the quality of its product, he praised it and advised further improving its taste and quality according to the opinions of many samplers.

In 2009 the Sinchang Fish Farm succeeded in sturgeon farming. Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the fish farm in June that year and said, "I want to make our people most comfortably off in the world, and so naturally they ought to know the tastes of the best dishes such as of sturgeon. Everything for the people—this is the fundamental principle of my activity and the goal of my life."

Thanks to the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il who regarded serving the people as his historical mission, the Korean people are exercising their rights as an independent people and socialist Korea is known to all peoples of the world as a country of the people mastered by themselves.

Chae Hui Won

On the Way of Field Guidance

Flowers and Butterflies

ONE LATE SUMMER afternoon in 1970 Chairman Kim Jong Il, on his way of on-the-spot guidance to local areas, had a pause by a lake. The shore was strewn with different kinds of flowers. Some of them were attracting bees and butterflies while others were not. Studying it with attention, the Chairman said to his accompanying officials, “All the flowers seem fragrant, but you can easily tell which are fragrant and which are not when you simply look at the bees and butterflies. It is the same reason with the human life.”

After a break he went on warmly, “Just as flowers can attract bees and butterflies only when they are fragrant, so the Party workers can draw people only when they are kind-hearted. The aroma for a Party worker is precisely the humanity and kind-heartedness. Flowers with no fragrance are little different from paper flowers, and the Party workers with no humanity and kind-heartedness are fake Party workers.”

His admonition continued,

“The bees and butterflies come to fragrant flowers because they can’t do without the honey of the fragrant flowers. Meanwhile the flowers give off fragrance to attract the bees and butterflies because they can have pollination and bear fruit only when they are helped by the bees and butterflies. It is the same case with the relationship between the Party and the people. The people can have prestigious political integrity only when they trust their lot to the Party, their vanguard organization, and are guided by the Party; meanwhile, the Party can emerge victorious in the revolution only when it has the backing of the people united behind it. In other words, only when the Party and the people are united as one, can they win the revolution and maintain the upkeep of the Party itself. This is the very mode of existence of our Party.”

Share the Same Pot

One February day in 1975 Chairman Kim Jong Il called an emergency meeting of officials. Pointing out undesirable practices among the officials who had

found their way to the shop floor he stated that the officials should share the same pot with the workers when they were at the shop floor for guidance to lower echelons. “You’d better not to think that you are among the workers by simply travelling to factories and enterprises in working garments. Only when you are in the actual ground of production to share meals and lodging and share the sweet and bitter with the people, then can you be said to be among the people.”

He went on in earnest, “You officials ought to find yourselves among the masses of the producers, then you will be able to give full play to their efforts and wisdom and push ahead with production and construction forcefully. By simply issuing instructions and giving public lectures, you could hardly pool their enthusiasm and creativity.”

Concluding the meeting he stressed that when the officials share the same pot and guide them kindly the masses of the people will regard them as their faithful servants and hold them in respect in the true sense of the words. □

Kim Jong Il and CNC (7)

The CNC song

YEARS AGO CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL invited an able composer who had produced many good songs of a new trend including the song *Higher and Faster*.

“Today I’ll give you an important task. I would like you to write a song about CNC.”

“Is it about CNC?”

“Sure, it is. And it should be done as soon as possible.”

“I see, dear Chairman.”

The composer buckled down to create the song. However, it was not an easy job. A new melody and words for the song would not come to mind without profound knowledge about the CNC technology. He searched about newspapers and technical magazines for information on CNC machine-tools while picturing to himself the operation of the machine to find out the right strains congenial to it. Now he was quite at a loss how to put inspiring tunes to the song reflecting the cutting-edge technology.

Several days later, the Chairman called in officials and musicians and told them, “This is an era of the knowledge-based economy. Only when we make plenty of cutting-edge machines like the ones produced by the Ryonha, can our country become an economic giant as early as possible. The Ryonha machines now on a world level of CNC machine-tools is a pride of Korea. We opened up the robot age already in the 1980s and, on this basis, put forth in the 1990s, when we were going through the Arduous March and forced march, the idea that we should lead the world in mechanical engineering by developing CNC machines... Now we should launch an intensive drive to break through the frontiers in all fields of science and technology.”

Every instructive word of the Chairman sank into the mind of the composer like fresh spring water, initiating him into the history and principles of breaking through the frontiers of science and technology.

“As I have already said, the song with the theme of ‘breaking through the frontiers of science and technology’ will give a great impetus to the drive to advance the age,” the Chairman said.

Bearing his words deep in his mind, the composer made another exertion. One day some time later he was called to the presence of the Chairman again.

“What about the CNC song?” was the first question.

CNC song! Something flashed through his mind. *Why haven’t I got wise to that? The Chairman has already said it is the CNC song. His instruction is precisely the theme of the song. CNC should literally go into the words*, he told himself.

That night he confidently sat at the piano. As if a CNC machine-tool were humming away, impressive tunes came out:

Our own CNC technology makes whatever we want through programs.

It is a pride of our machine industry in the Songun era.

A fine piece of song came straight out of his heart as a glorious combination of music and words. So the song *Break Through the Frontiers of Science and Technology* was propagated by newspapers, radio and TV.

The congratulatory message of October

On October 10, 2009 a concert was given to mark the 64th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’ Party of Korea. The musical performance reached its climax in the last stage with the songs of *Break Through the Frontiers of Science and Technology*, *Higher and Faster* and *Let’s Meet on the Front Line*. The next day when Kim Jong Il met officials who had been to the concert, he said, “The songs *Break Through the Frontiers of Science and Technology*, *Higher and Faster* and *Let’s Meet on the Front Line* showed the way ahead of us. The concert greatly encouraged me and inspired me with confidence in victory.” Then he vigorously said, “Sure, this is an age of change, so words and tunes should also undergo a change. They should change!”

Now, looking round the officials, he lifted his hand and spoke vehemently, “Break through the frontiers of science and technology!” This slogan was the warmest congratulatory message offered to mark the founding anniversary of the glorious Party. □

National Meetings of the Korean Children's Union Tell Their Tales

Last photo taken with children

ON JUNE 7, 1994 PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG went out to the place where the children delegates of the 5th meeting of the Korean Children's Union were waiting for him to have a souvenir photo taken with him. Warm tears ran down the young delegates' cheeks, who were jumping for joy, giving cheers for the President who was beaming with smile.

In his congratulatory message to the 5th meeting on June 6, the founding day of the Korean Children's Union, the President highly appreciated the union members, saying that the Korean Children's Union, the successor to the glorious traditions of the Children's Corps of the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, rendered great services for the country and the people, and that its members in the past had taken part in the building of a new Korea and in the holy war to defend the country and in the building of socialism, demonstrating the honour of the intelligent and courageous Korean children. Now, expecting that the Children's Union members as successors to the Korean revolution would grow up stoutly as children's guards true to the Workers' Party of Korea, he came out to have souvenir photo taken with the participants in the meeting. He spared nothing for the children. But who would have thought that the photo was the last one he was posing for with children?

The Korean people never forget the smiling face of the President who lavished his love on the children until the last year of his great life.

The successful meeting

On the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union, a national meeting of the Korean Children's Union was held in Pyongyang in early June 1991 amid the deep attention of the whole country. There was a heart-warming story about the meeting.

One day in May Chairman Kim Jong Il looked into the preparations for the celebrations of the Children's Union's holiday, June 6, and took all necessary measures for the national meeting of the Children's Union to be held in grand style. He saw to it that the congratulatory message of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee he had examined in detail was sent to the participants in the meeting,

and made valuable gifts to them. In addition, he saw to it that former Children's Union members and Labour Heroes who had demonstrated the honour and dignity of the Korean Children's Union members in defending the country and building up a prosperous nation in the periods of peaceful construction, the Fatherland Liberation War and postwar socialist construction congratulated the delegates in the meeting.

On the other hand, a national meeting was held with splendour with the participation of more than 100 000 Children's Union members and working people at Kim Il Sung Stadium on June 6 in commemoration of the 45th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union. The delegates to the meeting made a firm determination to carry forward dauntlessly the Juche revolutionary cause. All other celebrations proceeded successfully.

June 6, 2012

All the Children's Union members, their parents and people of the DPRK vividly remember the 6th meeting of the Korean Children's Union which was held on June 6, 2012 to commemorate the founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union. The supreme leader Kim Jong Un who embodies President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's noble love for the rising generations gave detailed instructions to honour the 66th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union on a large scale and took all measures for the sake of the delegates to the meeting. Planes and ships were sent out to fetch delegates from northern tips of the country and isolated islets. In the days of the meeting, the delegates who were sons and daughters of the working people were provided with all conveniences and special favours.

Kim Jong Un who attended the meeting on June 6 to congratulate the delegates to the meeting and all the Children's Union members across the country made a speech. In his speech he said: June 6 is a cherished holiday for our Party and all our people as well as for the KCU; for our Party and country, you dear KCU members are treasures more valuable than billions of tons of gold, and represent our hope and future.

His words moved all the Children's Union members and their parents to tears. □

Madusan Revolutionary Battle Site (1)

THE MADUSAN REVOLUTIONARY BATTLE Site was one of the secret bases in the Anju area during the years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle that was organized and led by General Kim Il Sung. With the establishment of the Madusan, Sangsan, Jonsan and Thukmaeksan secret camps in 1938, the Anju area became an important place where the headquarters of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army would be based in the imminent final campaign for national liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. The Madusan camp, found in the highest mountain in the Anju area, was of special importance as it was a crucial base in conducting operations for national liberation.

One of the important places at the site is a room which is dedicated to the preservation of slogans discovered in the locality. It features the layout of the secret camps in the district and has slogans on display. What is characteristic about the layout is a statement reading, "The secret bases in the Anju area make up an important operations centre for the successful carrying out of the final campaign for national liberation." This is a quotation from the final discourse of Commander Kim Il Sung of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army to his commanding officers in July 1945 on the operations for

national liberation. Anti-Japanese war veteran Kim Ik Hyon recalled with deep emotion that the Commander had announced that he would advance to the South Phyongan provincial area together with a paratroopers' unit led by Ryu Kyong Su and O Jin U and base his command there to direct the final nationwide campaign.

The layout shows that the Anju area was a very favourable operational district in terms of both its socio-economic condition and its physiographical features. After the KPRA based itself in Mt. Paektu in March 1938 Commander Kim Il Sung designated the Anju area as an important operational centre and dispatched a small unit there headed by a member of the secretariat of the KPRA Command. In August that year he advanced to the Namdaebong Secret Camp in Yangdok County to understand how secret camps were established in the Anju area. Speaking highly of locations of the secret base in advantageous places in the area, he indicated concrete tasks to be tackled by the base and ways to implement them.

The military outpost is associated with a legendary story. Following the Nanhutou conference (February 27-March 3, 1936) General Kim Il Sung placed the headquarters of the Korean revolution in the Mt. Paektu area and in the late 1930s drew up a ▶

Working people look round the room for preservation of and edification in revolutionary slogans and statements.





The site of a bivouac and a well.

► scheme to take control of the Anju area, which was an important military and strategic bulwark of the enemy. The KPRAs secret base in the area, divided into the Madusan, Sangsan, Jonsan and Thukmaek-san positions, was advantageous both for hiding and warding off the enemy's attack because it was surrounded by high mountains in all directions. The KPRAs Commander saw the area not simply as a hideaway but as a favourable advance base for launching a military campaign to deal a decisive blow to the Japanese imperialist aggressors and win national liberation. When a secret revolutionary centre was established in the area where there were many mines, it would be possible to awaken the workers of the mines to a revolutionary consciousness and arouse them to join the anti-Japanese resistance movement. The area also had geographical advantages in that once KPRAs units were based there, they would be able to get an unmolested access to Mt. Paektu by way of high ranges, travel to Pyongyang, Mundok, Sinanju, Kaechon and other regions in Korea with ease and store a good deal of food gathered from the local fields. Also, as the locality had major railway and road networks, they would be able to manoeuvre without much difficulty. Therefore, when the final campaign for national liberation started, KPRAs units would use the base to advance to different directions to carry out armed operations and arouse broad sections of the people to a nationwide resistance and thus give a decisive blow to the enemy. This was the strategic and tactical consideration of General Kim Il Sung—seven years before the Japanese aggressors went to ruin.

Ubiquitous in the area are slogans and statements written on tree trunks or rock faces; some typical ones are "Long live the three good lucks of our nation—Heaven-sent illustrious commander General Kim Il Sung, Commander of Mt. Paektu Kim Jong Suk and their successor Paektu



An old meeting place.

Kwangmyongsong!" "The brilliant woman commander's fighting against the Japanese true to General Kim Il Sung's order to usher in a bright future of Korea," and "General Kim Il Sung's heir Paektu Kwangmyongsong was born in Mt. Paektu."

Two years before Korea's liberation, that is, in July 1943, a KPRAs small unit based at secret camps in the Anju area called an important meeting at the Madusan Secret Camp on receiving a combat order from Kim Il Sung—the order was delivered by a messenger of the KPRAs Command. Before the meeting took place, the messenger and fighters of the unit wrote slogans and statements on rock faces and tree trunks along the routes of all directions to be used by the participants in the meeting. Fifty-one items of the kind were discovered around the Madusan Secret Camp.

Sim Chol Yong

Keeping up Indomitable Spirit

THE KIM CHAEK IRON and Steel Complex is one of the giant metallurgical enterprises in Korea. It has a laudable spirit created in last century and still alive.

When they sensed that their downfall was imminent, the Japanese imperialists—who had

been occupying Korea militarily—left the blast furnaces cooled with molten iron in them and severely destroyed all the production facilities like coke ovens and sintering furnaces of the complex (the then Chongjin Iron Works).

When the country was liber- ▶

Rolled steel plate production increases using a heating oven equipped with the high-temperature air combustion technology.



► ated, however, the workers rose up as one to rehabilitate the factory in response to the policy of their national leader Kim Il Sung who called upon all the people to contribute to the building of a new Korea by donating whatever they could—strength, knowledge and money. Though everything was in short supply, they turned out the first charge of molten iron by bringing the blast furnaces and coke ovens back to life with their own efforts and wisdom, and years later began to lead the nation-building efforts by producing more pig iron than they did be-

fore national liberation (August 1945) on an annual basis. The works was totally destroyed during the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953), but in the postwar years they, in the spirit of self-reliance, turned out molten iron by rehabilitating Coke Oven No. 1 and Blast Furnace No. 1 in a short span of time. Four years later they wrought a miracle of producing 270 000 tons of pig iron in a year with a blast furnace with an annual rated capacity of 190 000 tons. The spirit of self-reliance continued to sustain them strongly enough to perform remarkable feats spearheading the campaign of upswings in socialist construction thereafter.

Their brilliant ethos is developing clear-cut in the present century. Keeping in step with the progress of the time they have vigorously waged a mass-technical innovation campaign regarding it as the key to increased production. Their concerted efforts produced many good ideas including the reasonable remodelling of the blast furnaces' cooling equipment, the introduction of a new device to protect the furnace wall and a method to turn out more molten

iron in much less time than ever before.

Recently they succeeded in building a high-temperature air combustion technology-based heating oven. The streaming out of rolled steel plates further encouraged the workers. The completion of a circular-arc-type continuous caster, the introduction of a digital controlling system into various production processes, a reactive power compensation device and a roll deposition technique and many other sci-tech successes they made laid a solid sci-tech foundation to increase the production and further improve the quality of iron and steel.

At present the complex is vigorously pushing the work to modernize production processes as a whole as early as possible, relying on domestic materials and its own technology, in order to carry out the tasks set by DPRK supreme leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address. The workers of the complex keep a steadfast principle—*We have always been in the van of the great upsurges. Our spirit will go down forever.*

Jo Yong Il



Small in Size But Not in Role

THE SONGYO POTTERY IS A SMALL ENTERPRISE, but its products are quite varied and of high quality, so the name of the factory is familiar with the public. This reputation is attributable to the attachment of the technicians, artists and workers to their jobs and their sincere efforts for each of the items produced.

After the country was liberated from the Japanese military occupation in August 1945, it made sure that minor potteries were built in different places to manufacture and supply varieties of wares including bowls and dishes and flower vases. The Songyo Pottery is one of such establishments.

When it went into operation, it had a lot of difficulties in production as the country had just been freed from the imperialist shackles. But the workers never failed to fulfil their assignments year after year. Their high sense of being responsible for the building of a new country was their unfailing sustenance. Their enthusiasm grew higher when the country was fighting the Fatherland Liberation War to repulse the armed invasion of the US imperialists. Despite difficulties of all hues the factory produced

varieties of products for daily usages, like physicians' cups and pharmacists' mortars for the victory in the war.

After the end of the war the workers reconstructed the factory by their own efforts and increased the production of articles for everyday use and ceramic wares. In the late 1950s the pottery they made were exported, bringing a huge profit to the country. A dozen ceramic items from the factory, ▶



▶ including a vase inlaid with a sunflower pattern and a vase with a peony pattern, were registered as national treasure. And the makers of the treasure became popular artists as Kim Il Sung Prize laureates and People's Artists.

Scores of years have passed and the company has undergone a huge change. In keeping with the development of the times, production processes have been modernized and diversified products like different shapes of bowls and dishes are now produced to suit the tastes and fancies of the people.

Early this year the factory was given an urgent task to make a large amount of pottery for daily usages. Some workers were worried because the modernization project was finished last year and they had done production on a trial basis alone. General Manager Pak Song Hak and other executives had a consultation with technicians, artists and workers on the shop floor. There were suggested a good many ideas for innovation in production. All the partici-



pants decided to fulfil the task in time while ensuring the highest quality of the products.

The managers made detailed arrangements to bring the rational ideas into practice and solved problems promptly, which was a big encouragement to the workers. Thanks to the factory-wide endeavour the task was carried out ahead of schedule.

At present the factory is counted as an essential enterprise, though small.

Its products including ceramic wares are quite popular with the residents in the district and other citizens of Pyongyang.

Head of the handicraft work-team Hwang Song Ho says, "We're going to produce more articles for the people and thus exalt the honour of our factory."

Song Yong Sok



Thanks to Patriotic Zeal

THE JONGBANGSAN General Foodstuff Factory in Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province, is well-known for its modernization of production processes and huge profits it brings to the country. In the past the factory produced confectionery, corn syrup, glucose, starch, oil, noodle and the like.

In recent years the factory has established a salted dish production process, a fried-glutinous rice-cake production process and a ceramic production process, thus increasing the variety of products. Meanwhile, it has upgraded the production processes to a higher level from cleaning of raw materials to enrichment, soaking, drying, denaturing and conveying. And the products are supplied to the residents in the city and the province.

Last year the factory has introduced a geothermal cooling and heating system with its own efforts, thus remarkably improving the conditions of the production grounds and giving much

profit to the country. General Manageress So Sun Ok says, "In the past we thought that improving the quality and variety of foodstuff was all we could to contribute to improvement of the people's living standards. But the growing demand for electricity made us to think that power saving is also an important work greatly conducive to improvement of the people's living standards. So we began to seek a way to offer even a little help to the easing of the country's power shortage."

The factory decided to substitute the electric cooling and heating equipment in the production field and offices with geothermal one. It was not an easy job to tackle as the factory had no experience and few tech-



Geothermal-based cooling and heating system gets more functional.

nical personnel for the project. It was all the more difficult because they had to go on with the production. But they had experience accumulated in the course of establishing new production systems and modernizing production processes. All the workers turned out as one to assemble the equipment, dig water tubes and do other jobs, thus completing the project in some 30 days. Thus much of the electric power used to heat the production ground began to be supplied to other enterprises.

We underwent difficulties but we now feel proud of our factory we have built up with our own efforts. We are pleased we have made some efforts to help improve the living standard, and we feel more enthusiastic for production. We'll display our patriotic zeal in the grand march for better livelihoods of the people. This is a unanimous mind of the workers of the factory. The factory is getting smarter, and the production is on the increase thanks to the patriotic zeal of the workers.

Kim Kwang Chon



Stem Cell Researchers

TODAY THE RESEARCHES in and development of stem cells in biological engineering are making rapid headway across the world for their high efficacy in the treatment of various cancers and intractable diseases, and a new technical industry—stem cell industry—is coming into being. In recent years, the researches in stem cells for promoting people's health and protecting their lives are carried on briskly in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, too.

At last, Pak organized two research teams—one consisting of old scientists and the other of young scientists—and gave them the same task. They were in high spirits. They visited libraries including the Grand People's Study House and the reading room of the State Academy of Sciences. The old scientists intensified their researches drawing on their past experience, and the young ones collected and synthesized the data.

Two years passed after the

Koreans made electric locomotives. However, our scientists, engineers and workers made them by relying on their own resources. The same is true of today. Self-reliance is the only way for our survival. As we set to work in this spirit, we succeeded in making CNC machines by our efforts and technology."

Their visit to the factory produced a good effect on the researchers. *We should find out our own way, not treading the beaten path. So, let's do it with our own equipment and reagents.*

Seeing the zeal of the young scientists, the head of the old researchers' team went to see the chief of the institute. "It is time to merge the two teams," he told the chief. "Let's complete the researches on stem cells with the concerted efforts of the two teams." The merger of the teams produced a great result. The old researchers handed over all their research gains to the young ones, and took the lead in settling knotty problems. Their teamwork got over difficulties one by one. As they had already strengthened the theoretical basis, they tested the effectiveness of each stem cell on the laboratory animals infected with various diseases on the basis of the successful researches for separation and mass multiplication of stem cells. The test was very successful. Relying on the success, the institute applied the stem cells in clinical trials. So far, the researchers have gained good results by using various stem cells in the treatment of intractable diseases like myocardial infarction, liver cirrhosis, injury of spinal cord, multiple sclerosis, corneal injury and the like.

Today the researchers of the institute are devoting their heart and soul to their work for promoting public health by achieving more successes in the field of stem cell.

Song Yong Sok



The Stem Cell Research Institute of the Branch Academy of Bioengineering under the State Academy of Sciences has made a good showing in the researches into multi-stem cells. According to Pak Yong Jun, head of the institute, it was ten years ago when the institute set out on the study of stem cells. One day an old scientist came into his office. The man was a researcher credited with many scientific achievements. He said, "Mr. Pak, please assign us the task of stem cell research." Soon after he left the room, section chief Son Kyong Su in his thirties came into the office. "Mr. Pak, we'll take charge of stem cell research. As it is a work of breaking through the scientific frontiers, we, young people, should naturally take on the job."

organization of the research teams. Inquiring into the state of affairs in the research work of both teams, Pak discovered a new thing. Certain young researchers were insisting on importing some kinds of equipment and reagents to go on with experiments. So, one day the chief of the institute took the researchers out on a visit to the Huichon Ryonha General Machine Factory. Bidding them welcome amid the humming of all types of CNC machines, the chief engineer of the factory said, "When we decided to apply CNC technology to our equipment, a lot of people sneered at us. As you know, when we Koreans were building electric locomotives in the 1960s, certain people said they would eat their boots if

Beneficial Additive

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea many noticeable successes are achieved in the campaign to protect the atmospheric environment. One of those successes is laid to the credit of the researchers of the Atmospheric Environment Research Section of the Environment Development Centre of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection. They have developed a new kind of additive that can effectively prevent atmospheric pollution caused by exhausts as vehicles are on the increase with each passing day.

The additive is made from germanium which is good for human body. Wide application of this material in all internal combustion engines can produce good results. Additives of the past had contained some toxic substances, and they were defective in some way with an intricate manufacturing process and adding methods while they would often corrode engines. Developing an ideal additive was the target of the researchers who had long worked in the field of environment protection.

A few years ago researcher Rim Ho, reading a medical magazine, came across an article on germanium, an essential element in human body. He came

to think germanium could be used in environment protection. He thought deeply and conceived an idea that an ideal additive conducive to protecting atmospheric environment and saving fuel could be made from germanium. His idea won active support of other members of the section and all of them began to make researches on the subject. They achieved some successes through trial examinations and experiments for several months, but failed to produce what they wanted. They pooled their wisdom and efforts to tackle knotty problems one after another.

In this course, they got a clue to a new kind of additive by using germanium compound. Later, they developed a method of physical and chemical treatment of germanium compound, which enabled it to be dissolved in gasoline and other fuels. Then they applied it to major fueling stations in Pyongyang. The outcome was a marked reduction of pollution by carbon monoxide and soot caused by exhausts, and it was verified that the compound could be mixed in safety with gasoline and other fuels. Besides, it has great technical and economic effectiveness. When the additive is used, fuel consumption is down by 10 per cent in ordinary gasoline-fueled automobiles. It won gold medals at several sci-tech festivals and exhibitions including the 12th national invention and new technology exhibition.

Ri Song Chol

Researchers who have made an additive helpful to prevention of environmental pollution due to exhaust fumes.



Better Educational Environment for Students

A FEW YEARS AGO A CONFERENCE WAS held at the Pyongyang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University with the attendance of many officials and teachers. The subject for discussion was the issue of laboratory apparatuses. Jong Ho Song, vice-rector in charge of school affairs, said, "We may say that the educational work in our college is on a high level. But the rapidly developing reality requires the students to gain still higher scholarly attainments. To this end, we should step up the work of improving the educational conditions and environment. We should put great stress on experiments and practical training, a crucial domain in education to enable the students to cement their lecture-room knowledge and actively tackle knotty problems arising in reality. In this context, we should modernize the existing laboratory equipment and increase their variety on our own."

Good ideas were presented at the conference. The first goal was to develop a gene amplification device, and they organized a research team headed by Ri Yong Rok, teacher of the agricultural machinery faculty. The device can amplify the targeted gene hundreds of thousands or millions of times, and it is used in many fields like breeding of a new species, diagnosing of genetic and viral diseases, and cancers. Though Ri had no experience in this field, he buckled down to the research work with a will to develop the projected equipment without fail. To learn the action principle, structure and function of the equipment, he visited many institutions where the equipment was installed. When he learned about its structure to a certain extent, there arose a thorny problem, which was to make a sudden change in temperature. The solution lay in importing the relevant machine parts. But Ri and his researchers told themselves: *Let's make them by our own efforts and technology. This is the only way out.* With this determination, they repeated experiments over and over again. The officials and teachers of the college sincerely helped their work. Some time later, they conceived a novel idea



Practice is under way.

suited to the characteristics of the equipment. It was a unique method which would make it possible to make the temperature change in the reaction chamber without using accessories. Based on this, Ri and his research team succeeded in making the device. Several trial tests proved that the function of the device was very satisfactory. In this way, the gene amplification device came into existence.

On the basis of this success, the college performed a number of feats in the development of other experimental apparatuses and measuring instruments. A new soil salimeter was one of them. But its development was not plain sailing. They had to find out an element which could overcome polarization. The researchers pooled their wisdom, studying countless reference data and making exhausting investigations, and finally developed a necessary chip and made the salimeter suited to the actual state of the land. Moreover, the college has developed a cereal humidity measuring instrument, cell-fusing instrument and soil acidometer and the like. The equipment and instruments they have invented are well received and widely used by teachers in education.

Ri Yong Rok says, "The results of educational work depend on us. The more efforts we make, the more capable the students will be."

Kim Kwang Chon

Fostering the Future for the Nation

THE TONGHUNG JUNIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL in Central District, Pyongyang, is looked upon as a well-staffed school by the educators in the city. The parents of its students, too, think highly of its teachers for their real merits. The credit for this goes to the management workers of the school who have worked hard to improve the ability of the teachers in keeping with the developing reality. In recent years they saw to it that all teachers acquire good knowledge of the basic science and become skilful with educational and various musical instruments. Competent veteran teachers were nominated to present their teaching experience on the day of improving qualifications so that their good experience might be learned by other teachers. Special attention was paid to efficient discussions about teaching methods in order to find out a new teaching method. The point was to find effective methods and useful contents of instruction conducive to the teaching of wide-ranging knowledge in a manner best suited to the age and psychological traits of the students who moved on to the school of higher grade after spending one more year at the primary school stage due to the enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education. In this course a fine teaching method was found—setting forth and clarifying problems covering everyday life and common knowledge including the exposition of the theme, imparting of new knowledge and its application.

Having understood the importance of visual education in applying the heuristic method of teaching, the school made exact demands on preparing teaching aids. It encouraged the teachers to conceive good ideas in making wall charts, experimental apparatuses and multimedia. When the teachers hit upon an original idea, the managing officials supported it and gave active help in its practical application. This gave a strong boost to the teachers in their bid for higher qualifications. Department head Jang Jin Suk

took first place at the national symposium on teaching methods by presenting several new teaching methods including “An Effective Method for Correct Teaching of Concepts and Principles in Mathematics.” The qualifications of all the teachers improved and many teachers won the title of October 8 Model Teacher. All the teachers of the school received the Certificate of Registered New Teaching Method and the Certificate of Original Laboratory Apparatus and



Teaching experience is swapped.

Teaching Aid.

Their high qualifications resulted in the intellectual development of the children, so they correctly understood the lessons given in the classroom. As the days went by, an increasing number of students rose higher in their ability to learn and apply the contents of basic subjects and went ahead of the teaching schedule. Meanwhile, the school organized academic contests by grades in various forms to stimulate the students' zeal for study. As a result, all the children improved in their ability and received honour or highest honour prizes. And the school stands first in various contests including national quiz contests of the schoolchildren.

Headmistress Song Jong Hui and the teaching staff of the school are exerting themselves to elevate their qualifications with the pride of fostering the future of the nation.

Kim Chol Ung

Valuable Medicine Extracted From Natural Material

RECENTLY A HEMIN CAPSULE WAS developed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a treatment of iron-deficient anaemia. Made from hemin which is separated from animals' blood and purified, it is a new kind of natural biomedicine that is especially effective in treating a number of iron-deficient anaemia.

Anaemia is a common disease, and in most cases it is caused by an inadequate content of iron. From olden times they used to eat blood or liver of animals when they were weak or had anaemia, but as the rate of absorption was very low they needed to have a good amount of them. These days iron-supplementing preparations are usually inorganic like iron sulphate or organic like iron fumarate and iron citrate, whose absorption rate is low. They have side effects and are likely to cause iron poisoning. But hemin separated from hemoglobin in animals' blood is easily absorbed and digested while causing no poisoning at all. Moreover, it was recently proved that hemin inhibits viruses, so the interest in the material is growing higher.

Researchers of the Chemistry and Biology Research Institute of the University of Sciences set a target of developing a remedy of iron-deficiency-related anaemia, and made strenuous efforts. "We decided to make it in our own way without adopting others' techniques," recall the researchers. It is a worldwide practice to use expensive organic solvents to obtain iron-containing hemin from natural materials. The Korean researchers, studying reference books and making profound investigations, tried hard to think of a simple method that needs low costs, refusing to accept the existing method of single-time decomposition which demands high costs. At last they found out a two-stage separation method by which to concentrate the basic substance in the primary state and extract hemin in the second stage with a little solvent. Now they, in cooperation with a number of medical establishments including the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, conducted basic pharmacological experiments and clinical examinations sufficiently to verify the pharmacological properties and remedial effects of the new medicine from a scientific point of view, and then laid a hemin capsule production line at the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory in cooperation with the factory's technicians.

The medicine is popular with the women as it treats iron-deficient anaemia—that comes in the



Developers of the hemin capsule and boxes of the products.

time of pregnancy, delivery and bleeding—in a short period of time and has no side effects. The demand for the medicine is increasing as it is effective in treating iron-deficient anaemia that troubles growing children and elderly people. The medicine also fights against inflammation, stress and hepatic virus and lowers the blood pressure, and is in wide use for treating porphyria as well. It was presented to the 2013 9th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair and was favourably commented upon.

After the development of the hemin capsule, the researchers succeeded in making a zinc-protoporphyrin injection which is used in treating different kinds of hepatic diseases like acute and chronic hepatitis and liver cirrhosis, rehabilitating and protecting hepatic functions, and curing bronchial asthma, eczema and allergic troubles like allergic nasitis and conjunctivitis. And they also made functional skin-restoring cosmetics from serum substances of animals' blood and introduced it into production.

Their endeavour to make medicinal preparations from natural materials is going ahead forcefully.

Rim Hye Gyong



Okryu Children's Hospital and New Educational Arrangements

NOT LONG AGO I VISITED THE OKRYU Children's Hospital newly built last year. The hospital is located in front of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital looking like a baby in the embrace of its mother. The green carpet of turf round the hospital building, an outdoor playing ground and a playing fountain are enough to catch the eyes of children. Entering the central hall I saw the acrylic picture "We are the happiest in the world" portraying merry children, and multicoloured chandeliers on the ceiling in the shape of flower petals and sunbeams.

I was shown round the hospital by vice-directress

in charge of technical affairs Kang Yon Ran. The walls of the sick wards, treatment rooms, corridors and staircases were full of pictures from Korean children's films and famous fairy tales of the world. They were so vivid and amusing that I was struck with admiration. Seeing the pictures of familiar heroes of the fairy tales I had read in my childhood, I felt as if I were in an exhibition of fairy-tale pictures, not in a hospital.

"An art gallery seems to be in the hospital," I said.

"The pictures decorating the walls exceed 1 700. They make the children learn good and evil and love ►



► and hatred. Usually children are afraid of going to hospital, but from the moment they enter our hospital they get cheerful. The pictures on the walls are not the only things that make children feel happy,” said the vice-directress.

She led me to a play hall equipped with wooden slides, bicycles, swings, sledges and other playing instruments—38 items in 18 kinds on the ground and first floors alone— and a swimming pool



The inside of the children's hospital is furnished to suit the children's psychology.

with various coloured balls. She went on, “Even sick children are eager to play. They are scared at treatment. But playing in this hall, they calm down, become quite willing to receive treatment and have a pleasant feeling after treatment.”

I came to a halt before the “classroom for middle school students.” Inside, I saw teaching aids and furnishings like a blackboard and scores of desks and chairs for students, and a bookcase full of middle-school textbooks. There I met Son Su Won, teacher in charge of instruction and discipline, who said, “During their hospitalization, the children may fall behind the progress of classwork, so the hospital has instituted classes for kindergarteners, primary-school children and middle-school students. After treatment, children can take lessons in the classrooms from the teachers. This highly gratifies the children and their parents.” At this, Kang Yon Ran added, “In a word, children simultaneously benefit from free medical care and free education while in the hospital.”

In the primary-school classroom I met Jang Mi Rim from the Hyesan Primary School in Hyesan, Ryanggang Province. She said she had been in hospital for one month, and she had received lessons according to her curriculum, adding, “This hospital is as good as my home. So I think I'll find it hard to leave the hospital even after I get well again.” Her diary showed me her feelings about and her life in the hospital seen by the child's eye. Her entries in the diary had such titles as “Sports remedy,” “Lessons in the hospital,” “New friends I met in the playing hall,” “The walls tell me fairy tales,” and “I met a foreigner in the sports remedy room.” She had been to several hospitals for five years to have her cerebral palsy treated before she came to this hospital, where her uneasy mind got steady and her treatment made great progress. I promised to meet her again when she left the hospital in good health.

Going out of the hospital, I saw again the acrylic painting “We are the happiest in the world.” The figures of the picture had bright faces giving me deep impressions once again. I could not easily move out of the hospital equipped with up-to-date accommodations and good educational conditions suited to children's mind.

The new educational setup of the hospital was something that moved me profoundly.

Rim Ok



To Be Worthy of Dear Titles

THE FAMILY DOCTORS OF THE SOJANG Polyclinic in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, are fondly called “our doctor in charge” or simply “our doctor” among the local inhabitants. This is attributable to their efforts for preventive and clinical treatment.

Their primary attention is directed to the campaign of hygienic information to ward off all kinds of diseases season after season. The information activities focus on preventing the cold in winter, hepatitis and tuberculosis in spring, colitis in summer and malaria in autumn; by making them well aware of the danger and effects of the diseases the doctors encourage the inhabitants to pay special attention to their health and clean environment in their living quarters and workplaces. Thanks to their activities the people have a good idea that essential for prevention of diseases is to keep their homes, neighbourhoods and streets clean, and pool their efforts to improve the hygienic condition.

Checkups are conducted on a routine basis. If there's anything unusual the doctors record them as cases, make thorough examinations and launch proper treatment. The doctors are well aware of the condition of all the residents like the palm of their

Health checkups are done on a regular basis.



hands. Assorting chronic cases into different categories, they study how they have changed and put them to intensive treatment on a regular basis or send them to special hospitals. The doctors visit those who are too busy with their work to make time to get treatment, and offer due service. They pay great attention to the care of war veterans, disabled ex-soldiers and retirees and help them have a pleasant and optimistic life.

One day a doctor was looking round Neighbourhood Unit No. 52, Sojang-dong, for checkup, when she found an inhabitant lying unconscious all of a sudden. She knew he had retired three years before. (The frail man had been under the close concern of the polyclinic.) He was in a critical condition but not allowed to move. Now the doctor took emergency measures herself and attended on him until he turned for the better. When he was recovering from his illness, the doctor gave him tonics and delicacies.

This kind of story is something usual about the doctors. One of them gave different kinds of tonics to war veterans and disabled ex-soldiers visiting them routinely. Another one arranged a dozen consultations for the treatment of a chronic case and helped him receive full treatment, and still another did not mind waiting for a family to return home till late in the evening to give them preventive injections. A doctor rushed a critical case to a special hospital in time and engaged herself in the treatment. The pharmacists kindly explain the dosages when they give drugs to patients. The Koryo medicine physicians have cured a lot of people by means of the traditional Korean remedies. The clinic has also prepared a good deal of Koryo medicines and tonics for health improvement of the residents.

Head of the polyclinic Son Kum Ok says, “We feel proud and worthwhile of our work when the residents are happy to see us. And we renew our determination to work hard for the sake of them.”

Sim Yon Ok

Coach Kim Chun Hui

WOMEN WEIGHTLIFTERS
Rim Jong Sim, title holder of 69 kg category at the 30th Olympic Games, Ryo Un Hui, winner of 69 kg category at the 2013 Asian Weightlifting Championships, Kim Ok Byol, Kim Su Ryon, Kim Su Jong and Rim Un Sim are all rising in prominence as weightlifting aces in the DPRK. They belong to the Kigwancha Sports Team, under Coach Kim Chun Hui.



Kim Chun Hui (left) supervises the training.

Kim Chun Hui is well known as an excellent coach who has made wonderful records in her career of five years. Born in Pyongyang as the third daughter of a family, she was called “a girl of masculine spirit” by her neighbours. In her early years she loved to play football and do horizontal bar exercise and run a race with boys. Her manly character and disposition gradually led her into sports. When she was 11, she was enrolled at the special department of the Korea University of Physical Education. The first course she took was track and field. But when she was a fifth-grade student, she changed over to the weightlifting course. Women’s weightlifting was in its fledgling stage in the country and she had an impulse to go in for it, although weightlifting was still regarded as men’s job. So she changed her course despite the opposition of her intimates.

After graduating from college, she became a weightlifting instructor at the then Juvenile Sports School of the Weightlifting Gymnasium. Her first pupils were Rim Jong Sim, Ryo Un Hui, Kim Su Jong, Kim Su Ryon, Kim Ok Byol and Rim Un Sim. Chun Hui’s maidenhood passed in the weightlifting

gymnasium. Reading many reference data on weightlifting, she continuously studied suitable training methods and techniques and applied them to her charges of different ages. Her competence as instructor of weightlifting became apparent in the 2008 Mangyongdae Prize Sports Contest. Her trainee Rim Jong Sim, aged 15, won the 48 kg category.

In 2009 Kim Chun Hui became a coach of the Kigwancha Sports Team, and since then she has intensified training of her old charges. Now she is known as best coach who has reared the largest number of national-team athletes in an individual event and the one who has rendered great service in winning many gold medals at world competitions in a short span of time. Her husband, too, is a weightlifting coach of the same sports team. They have a two-year-old son. Last year they moved to the modern athletes’ apartment house on the bank of the Pot-hong River. She is working heart and soul as ever for exalting the honour of her nation with more gold medals.

Song Yong Sok

Pyongyang Indoor Stadium Refurbished

THE INTER-PROVINCIAL Games was held in October last year in the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium rebuilt in a modern way. It was the first games after the reconstruction of the stadium. The supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the stadium to see the games. He was greeted with a rousing welcome at the time, says Jon Yong Gun, director of the stadium. "Today an unprecedented enthusiasm for sports is sweeping across the country," he continues, "Built in 1973 before the construction of the government and Party offices, our indoor stadium plays an important role in further fanning sports enthusiasm. Large numbers of people have visited the stadium in the 40-odd years since then to enjoy the pleasure of physical culture. Our stadium's role in popularizing sports and making it part of everyday life can be seen from the fact that most of the people who got training in this stadium have become famous sports stars in their factories and work places."

This stadium, refurbished in an up-to-date way on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the DPRK founding, is showing off its new appearance. All the architectural elements of its interiors are well harmonized in a beautiful, artistic way, drawing the visitors' admiration. The large hall for sports games



The inter-provincial games held in the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium in October 2013.

has been rebuilt for multi-functional and multi-purpose uses. In particular, the double illumination system introduced in the hall makes it possible to hold successfully various kinds of national and international games and important functions. Trophies and scenes of sports activities are embossed on many walls and the balusters of the stairs are patterned on a trophy cup, making a new special aspect of the popular sports base more conspicuous.

Not only the appearance of the stadium but also the visitors have changed. In the past, many of the visitors remained mere spectators, but now all who come there take part in sports and games. ▶



Pleasure of Sportswear Makers

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR THERE TOOK place the finals of mass-sports event of the Inter-provincial Games in Pyongyang. Displaying their good teamwork, the players demonstrated high skills and various tactics that they had honed while in service. The teams from South Phyongan Province and Nampho City contended for victory in the women's volleyball final. When the players entered the court amid enthusiastic applause, some of the spectators were particularly attracted to them. They were employees of a sportswear manufacturer under the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports, who had made the uniforms of the teams.

They felt anew that the uniforms looked smart and dynamic. The sportswear-making base went online five years ago. In the initial months they were making only a few kinds of clothes. Soon they knew they shouldn't feel content with their work, for the whole country was swept by the sports enthusiasm and everyone wanted to take part in exercises and games. They paid a primary attention to how to make clothes suitable for the athletes' constitutional features and reach the international standards. They frequently went out to sports teams and stadiums to gather the athletes' opinions and collect the useful knowledge on the sportswear from sports scientists.

When they went to a stadium, they saw some athletes at break after hard training. Their clothes saturated with perspiration made them feel chagrined. *If we had developed good clothes suitable for the athletes' training by deepening the study on the sportswear...* Criticizing themselves, they buckled down to the task of developing good clothes for the athletes which could suck sweat. In addition, in order to make various kinds of clothes suitable for children



and young people, they often visited primary schools and junior and senior middle schools. Based on the study of their constitutional characteristics by ages, they completed many kinds of high-quality and comfortable clothes which are favourably commented upon by not only athletes and enthusiasts but also children.

The base turns out many kinds of sportswear for different athletic events like football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis and tennis and various sorts of uniforms for referees and umpires, symbolic flags and so on.

At present many organs, factories, sports teams, fans and schoolchildren come to order their sportswear. The employees feel happy and proud whenever they see people participate in competitions or train themselves wearing the clothes they made.

Ri Son Suk, a tailor, says, "By producing more and better clothes, we'll further the enthusiasm of sports fans and schoolchildren as well as athletes."

Sim Yong Jin

▶ Ri Chung Sil, 47, an employee of the Central Information and Communication Bureau, says, "I would often come to this indoor stadium before, but stayed outside the field for fear that I might discharge myself. But now, seeing many people take part in sports with joy in the newly created environment, I think it is awkward simply to sit and watch."

The sports notice board which is another attraction shows the data on famous athletes who are well-known to the country. Many people come to the

noticeboard with their children and say in unison that they will bring up their children into master athletes.

Kim Song Sim, an old keeper of the indoor stadium, says, "I'm sure everything has changed. Though I'm nothing but a keeper of the stadium, I can see the future of my country when it will shine forth as a new sports power."

Chae Kwang Myong

Insatiable Designers

NEW ORIGINAL DESIGNS OF INDUSTRIAL art are streaming out in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a result of the rapid progress of the industrial art under the national concern. Many of them are credited to the efforts of the staff of the Korea Industrial Art Studio who are well aware of their responsibility for spearheading the economic construction and the improvement of living standards.

Last year the studio produced more than 1 000 items of industrial art, including those of the emblem of the Mirim Riding Club, the costume of the keepers of the Munsu Water Park, brands of different kinds of foods of the Changsong Foodstuff Factory. Over 220 of them developed into real things.

We should have a perspective view all the time. An impractical design would be useless however original it might be—this is the consistent iron rule kept by the designers in their work.

They remember a serious lesson they learned from a past prize contest for a design of an industrial item. Preparing their own things for the contest they were all determined to present a wonderful item. A lot of designs were produced delivering new ways and methods of representation, but none of them won the prize. It was all because the presentations failed to be based on the multifarious considerations of the technical process of manufacturing the article and the properties of the materials of the article. In other words, they were carried away by their own desire alone for a novel thing, without thinking of the actual

condition of production.

Now there took place a radical change in their manner of thinking and creation. An artist did not mind travelling to the Ryongsong Machine Complex, which is a long way off from Pyongyang, to make the design of a miscellaneous part of a new machine to be manufactured, while another designer went to see dozens of newly modernized light industry factories for field exercise in order to make a simple trademark.

Discussions on certain works were organized involving the whole studio, and as they focused on debating practical themes their effects grew as much. Gradually the studio's creations were favourably commented upon at national industrial art shows for their new and original composition and highly practical value.

The designers' sight was far-reaching. Deputy director of the studio Ju Song Il who has worked there for more than 30 years, says, "I've got an old nickname of 'man of fanciful ideas.' But you can't call it a fancy to draw an autumn-due fruit in spring, can you? Your task is to achieve the picture-like fruit by putting your heart and soul into your work, I say."

This was not simply an idea of his alone. The artists were seldom satisfied with any high appreciation of their works. They regarded it as their task as well to bring their designs into reality. It was an attitude they adopted while going around the daily developing country for field practice. To the end they tried hard to get informed about different sectors. Meanwhile they made models of what they had designed, however costly it was, and brought them to the producers so that they could be interested in the designs. Even a small trademark was planned by pooling opinions of field technicians and workers.

Thanks to their efforts hundreds of designs have been introduced into light industry which plays a big role in improving living standards. Chon Yong Il, head of the Third Production, who is well known for his works like the label of the Taedonggang beer and the emblem of the Mirim Riding Club, says, "We'll continue with our creative thinking and bold implementation to make each of our designs a blueprint for our people's well-being and treasure of our country."

Designs of original styles are developed.



Chae Kwang Myong



Note of Visit to Meari Shooting Gallery

ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited the Meari Shooting Gallery which had gone through reconstruction recently. When I went there the first thing that came into my sight was a two-storeyed building with an original architectural beauty. It was an indoor shooting ground.

I went into the central hall of the building through the revolving door, and saw a mark shaped in the form of the Korean letters of Meari (echo in English) fixed on the front wall. The ceiling and the granite floor were also decorated like a target.

There I was greeted by Paek Nam Hwa, service worker of the gallery. He introducingly told me, "We began our service last March 1 after the reconstruction project, and we have got a large number of customers day after day. They enjoy themselves with recreation activities."

I first went to look into the ray gun hall. On the screen were seen a lot of animals including tigers, bears, hares and deer, and the bushes around the sides made me feel as if I were hiding in a wood. There were many people shooting; a man was at a loss what to shoot as the animal targets were moving to and fro and right and left steadily with their sizes increasing and decreasing. A woman was at a loss how to take the rifle—she seemed to take the gun for the first time in her life. A schoolboy raised hurrahs for his getting 900 points by shooting a tiger in the



head.

I could not suppress the desire to do shooting myself, and I took a pistol. The guide corrected my posture, telling me that I had six minutes for my game and that if I had a high point I would get a prize. I felt nervous. I pulled the trigger a few times, but all in failure. Now I aimed at the head of a bear with patience and then shot. It was a great hit now. The people around me raised cheers as if it were their own hit. Both the shooters and the spectators were filled with pleasure.

The next leg of my visit was the 50 m rifle section. The people who were taking aims at their targets in each of the eight positions just looked like those competing in a shooting tournament. In the stand ▶



► behind the positions were people who were watching the game on the display. The shooters could also know their points from the screen set on one side. They looked quite strained and the spectators were also watching the scene with sweating hands.

Feeling a little serious myself, I left the place and headed for the archery ground on the first floor. The grass-patterned

seen a TV programme about the shooting gallery and that she chose to try archery as her friends advised. All took the bows but none of them knew what to do with it. A guide explained how to pose themselves, how to load arrows and how to pull the bowstring. Helped by the guide Hwang pulled the string, but missed it halfway, so the arrow fell before it could reach the target. The spectators burst into laughter, and Hwang herself could hardly suppress the burst of laughter.

Leaving the merry sounds of laughter, I came out and walked to the electronic pistol section. There in the place they learn how to pose themselves with the pistol in the hand and aim at the target. It is favourite with

mark of the game, and people watching the screen gave a great applause. All were immersed in shooting.

After looking round the indoor shooting ground, I came out to see the open-air section when I heard roaring sounds come from somewhere around. I was curious and rushed there to know it was an electronic game hall. A crowd of children and grownups were at scores of electronic appliances, playing different kinds of games. Children were vying to get higher marks than others, while their parents beside them were cheering them enthusiastically, even stamping their feet. The images of the grownups behaving like children looked quite funny. I was coming out with pleasure, when I saw a boy



floor and the timber-like walls gave me the senses of shooting arrows in the open air instead of in a hall, so the feeling of strain disappeared all at once. There I addressed a woman who introduced herself as Hwang Kum Hui, 30, from Kyongsang-dong, Central District, Pyongyang. She said she was there after she had

women and children.

Next to the electronic pistol section was the 25 m pistol ground. Those who had learned the knack of shooting through exercises were engrossed in aiming their pistols at the targets. Now there rang reports in succession. A man raised a roar of cheers for his 10.9 points, the top

appear from somewhere with a bike. I went up to the place and learned it was a shop that gives prizes to those who have got high marks at shooting.

On my way to the open-air shooting ground I saw people playing volleyball, tennis, badminton and other games. The open-air shooting ground was ►



▶ located behind the indoor-shooting building. Using rifles and pistols, they were to hit different kinds of targets like those appearing momentarily, fixed ones, moving ones and point-showing ones. The most interesting event was the shooting at animal targets. There I met An Yong Sil, 47, who was receding from the ground with her prize of pheasants and chicken. Saying she came from Paecheon County, South Hwanghae Province, she recounted her impression, “The nervousness at the moment of pulling the trigger changed in-

stantly into a rush of pleasure when chicken fell at my shots. I didn’t know where the time was. I’ve had really a good time. Other people must feel the same. The sound of shooting is just the sound of great pleasure and amusement. The sound will echo far and wide day after day.”

The shooting gallery was opened only recently, but it has been visited by a large number of foreigners as well. Some of them wrote down their impressions. Ali Reza, director of the PT Republik Defensindo, Turkey, wrote, “I’ve had a good time

shooting bullets and arrows. The Korean people are very lucky to have such a beautiful place. I really appreciate dear leader Marshal Kim Jong Un who initiated and led the construction of this facility.”

Members of the Young Pioneer Tours, Ireland (the third round), also expressed themselves, writing, “Our group have had such a good time. We cannot wait to come back soon.”

I was convinced the place would be a haunt of more and more people, when I left there.

Jo Song I



Warm Care

ONE OF THESE DAYS I VISITED THE Pyongyang City Baby Home. Arriving there I found it a neat nursery with a four-storeyed building and an open-air playground, which goes well with the surrounding environment. Welcoming me, directress Kim Jong Hui briefly explained that the country keeps the home in the best possible condition, bearing the whole burden of the upkeep of the home. There are babies' rooms, a sunbathing ground, a clinic and a general playground equipped with different kinds of sporting and medical facilities.

Hearing her I first looked into a babies' room. A number of babies were asleep in cots covered in soft blankets. Their faces were all peaceful as if they were in the embrace of their mothers. I was told there were several nurses and a doctor in charge of them. One of the nurses, Kim Sun Hyang by name, said they have babies up to one year old in the room. The babies were all plump. One of them was suddenly going to cry. "You must have had No. 1, Yong Bok," the nurse murmured and went over to it to change the napkin.

"You look just like its mother," I said. Then she told me her story: When she was assigned to work for the babies she hadn't imagined her job would be so difficult. She had known it quite a task while she was looking after them actually. She had been greatly influenced by her senior colleagues who were working devotedly and sincerely. Now she had made up her mind to be a genuine mother to the babies. She had tried hard to grasp their characters and get familiar with them. "Now I can tell who it is by simply hearing the crying sound and what it is crying for," she said rather proudly.

The baby stopped crying and fell asleep soon. I left the room where the babies were having a sound sleep in comfort and headed for the indoor playground. Stepping in there, I saw three or four year old children indulging themselves in playing with different toys like intelligence-improving facilities, slides, horseback swing and boat swing. There were a dozen children there. A number of nurses were looking after them, and I fancied as if I were seeing dear

mothers finding pleasure from the pretty faces of their children. Some of them were listening to their complaints and others straightening up their clothes and patting them on their cheeks. I felt they were no less than real mothers.



Yom Ok Sun, the chief nurse, who had been working there for 13 years, told me, "I'm often asked if I'm tired. To tell the truth, I'm sometimes tired looking after the children. But I feel resilient when I think that they will grow to be pillars of my country."

The children were busy with their playing, and I left the room and went into the room where triplets were looked after. The baby home is charged with the care of triplets as well as orphans. When triplets are born the country supplies them with clothes, quilts and dairy goods for one year's portion for free and puts doctors in charge of them.

It was a time of examination when I entered the room. There was a smile on every face—the doctor in charge, the doctor measuring the height of the children, and the nurses recording the data. When children complained the nurses and doctors obeyed them readily. It was truly the image of real mothers.

Kim Ok Gyong, doctor in charge, said to me, "The country is closely concerned about the triplets. They stay at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital till they are four kg heavy when they move to my home. When they are four years old they join with their parents." The doctors in charge put close attention to the ►

► health management of the triplets who are treasure of the country.

Nurse Hong Son Hwa told me a story: Five years ago Kim Song Ok resident in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, had triplets. Her two daughters and one son came to the baby home. Once their parents took the boy to their home to bring him up themselves—they were sorry the country was taking great troubles to take care of the triplets. That evening the directress found the boy missing while looking round the triplets' room. Hearing the story from the nurse in charge, she demanded he be brought back at once, arguing that rearing triplets at the baby home is state law and that nobody is allowed to break it. Now Son Hwa renewed her sense of duty as nurse of triplets.

The bright images of the orphans who are provided with all cares needed reaffirmed my view to the future of the country where children are put forward as king and grow without any worry.

The directress told me a memorable story: one day last February national leader Kim Jong Un visited the baby home. There he said that the orphaned children miss their parents more sorely than anybody else, and stressed the need to bring them up as bright and stout people and pillars of the country with no sorrow over their loss of parents. And he urged to work hard to make the sound of the chil-



dren's favourite song "We Are the Happiest in the World" reverberates more loudly all around the country. Then he said he would make sure a new baby home was established on the picturesque bank of Taedong River.

Seeing the happy images of the babies at a new home with my mind's eye I left the Pyongyang City Baby Home.
Kim Il Ryong



Child Calligrapher

WHEN I VISITED THE Ponghwa Kindergarten, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang some time ago, I saw a piece of calligraphic work posted on the board showing the kindergarten's pride. The fine work reminded me of the work of an old hand. It was the work of six-year-old Kim Kwon Song.

Kwon Song began to learn calligraphy when he was very young. His father used to spend the evening after work doing calligraphy. When Kwon Song began to speak he liked being with his father rather than his mother, and naturally, he loved to play with the brush. Seeing their son habitually imitating brushwork, his parents taught him how to write Korean.

When he was in the junior class of kindergarten, he was seen trying to write beautiful letters with the brush like those in the senior class. (Some of the children in the senior class with an aptitude for calligraphy were taught the art.) His teacher Kim Yong Hui, seeing him imitating the letters written by his elders at break, remembered that his handwriting on the book was unusually pretty. Then she approached him and said quietly, "The brush isn't a toy. Can we play another game in another place?"

"I like writing with the brush

best," Kwon Song replied.

In this way he started to learn calligraphy. His understanding and tenacity were incredibly fine. It took a long time for other children to learn how to control breath at the beginning of writing lessons, but he learned it soon after his teacher taught once. He was reluctant to let up writing before his teacher gave him full marks on his work. Sometimes, it took him even a whole day to write a single stroke or dot properly, but there was not

several times larger than his elders'.

At last his effort came to fruition. His work *Powerful Paektusan Nation* won a gold medal in the kindergarten category of the 2013 national calligraphy festival in celebration of the Day of the Sun. Experts commented in unison that his writing was natural with the characteristic of the child's pure mind contrary to other works produced by children of his age.



a spot of dirt on his clothes or hand. Thanks to his unusual memory, close observation, patience and the ability of concentration he persistently made headway towards the high level of calligraphy. In less than a year his exercise books numbered

Kwon Song's mother Sonu Hye Sim says, "I often visit this kindergarten. It is not because my son is studying here. I know I come here to express my thanks to those who are cultivating my son's talent."

Kim Chol Ung

Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic

SOME TIME AGO I, AS *Korea Today* reporter, visited the Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic which stands abreast with the Munsu Water Park. Thae In Chol, official of the clinic, greeted me and began to guide me around, saying that the centre was built last year as a comprehensive health service establishment in a little over five months.

I entered the main hall, when my guide told that the clinic had been designed as a service facility for fitness and recreation activities before the state had taken a measure to make it a modern special centre. The design of the circular main hall went through a dozen modifications, he explained. Then we went to the neuro-rehab department. It comprises a physical exercise room, a children's treat-

ment room, an ADL therapy room and a working-based treatment room to suit people of different ages and in different functional disabilities. In every room there are various kinds of apparatuses for rehabilitation of neurological and physical functions. What is impressive is the children's room. All apparatuses are arranged to meet the mental quality of the children. In particular, a star hanging from the ceiling and a ladder fixed on a wall are intended to provide amusement and treatment simultaneously to the children.

The physical exercise room is equipped with all sorts of apparatuses for physical training. There I met doctor Ri Un Hui. She said that she was very pleased whenever she said goodbye to the people who had recov-

ered quickly while receiving scientific physical training there. The orthopaedic rehab department is provided with medical service conditions and atmosphere suited to the psychology, likings and tastes of the patients. There are apparatuses for improving muscular strength. Blue-collar and white-collar workers with aching joints from Pyongyang and provincial areas were having treatment.

Now we dropped in at the hydrotherapy room which is the favourite of people for its high efficacy in treatment. There are two large pools, a children's pool, private ones and saunas. Auxiliary appliances with various functions are set at the pools, which help people go into the water without the least inconvenience. Thae In Chol said, ►



▶ “The water-based treatment is too expensive in operation, so it is not accessible to the general public even in those countries having a long-standing experience in functional treatment. But here we give treatment free of charge.” There I met Yun Mi, worker of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, who had just received treatment. She said, “I’ve got the water therapy for the first time at this clinic. Now I feel refreshed and relieved of all my fatigue. I



The in-patient ward.

think the unusual saunas make my treatment better.” She added that she felt several years younger and would visit the clinic with her friends next time.

I found the first floor consisting of physical exercise rooms of the cardiac rehab department and other treatment rooms. In the physical exercise rooms I saw people of various ages immersing themselves in treatment using different kinds of physical train-

ing apparatuses. After looking around the Koryo medicine and physical therapy departments I dropped in at the ward, where I met with a conspicuous scene—I could see the Munsu Water Park over the window of the ward. The merry laughters of the people in the park wafted out to the ward, which I felt was a good cure of the patients.

I was reluctant to leave the

clinic, for I was deeply impressed, particularly for its great benefit to the people. When I said goodbye to Thae, he said that his staff were determined to devote all their zeal to improvement of the health service and thus help the people become healthy enough to contribute to the building of a thriving nation.

Kim Son Ae





Disabled people go through treatment for functional rehabilitation.



Manual treatment and different kinds of exercises are applied.

Korean National Dishes and Their Development

Health and medicinal cuisine

THERE ARE INNUMERABLE DISHES around the world that represent the pride of each nation. The French cuisine is characterized by decorative merits, the Chinese by high caloric value and the Japanese by palatable pleasure. In all respects, the Korean dishes feature health-promoting and medicinal effects. Human health and longevity are the basic consideration in making Korean foods.

From of old the Koreans kept the principle that medicine lies in the food and that the food itself is the medicine. True to the principle they created national foods to their own liking using raw materials that come from mountains, fields, seas and streams, and developed them ceaselessly. Ho Jun, author of *Tonguibogam* which is one of the three medical encyclopaedias of Korea, chose 365 kinds of the animal and plant resources and classified them in three groups for medicinal usages: the first category include those that are taken in everyday life, for instance, rice and other cereals, fruits and vegetables, which contain no poisonous elements. The second division comprises both poisonous and non-poisonous materials, many of which can cure chronic diseases when they are taken for a long time. Those included

in the third one are mostly very poisonous animal and plant materials, which bring patients back to health with a small dosage. There are many foods pronounced as *yak* which means medicine: *yakbap*, *yaktok* and *yakjuk* are some of them.

Provinces have their own special foods. Potato cake and starch noodles in Hamgyong Province, Pyongyang *naengmyon*, Taedonggang mullet soup and roasted eel in Phyongan Province, assorted rice in Hwanghae Province and persimmon cake and pine nut porridge in Kangwon Province were the must things on holidays and for guests of honour.

Different foods were prepared in different seasons. On the lunar New Year's Day they had rice cake soup; on the lunar January 15 dishes made of nine kinds of dried vegetables and cooked mixture of five kinds of cereals; on the Harvest Moon Festival cake made of the year's rice. Like this various foods were prepared traditionally. *Ssuktok* made of rice and wormwood shoots which are effective in removing harmful substances in the body was taken after the idea that it would prevent them from illness for the year, while the cooked mixture of five kinds of cereals was had with the belief that it is very helpful to health improvement. The national dishes made progress on a scientific basis and on the old experi- ▶

Cooking festivals are annual events.



▶ ence of their nutritional and medicinal effects.

National cuisine promoted

The DPRK regards it as a state concern to carry forward traditional dishes of the nation. In Pyongyang, for instance, there are many restaurants that serve special delicacies of provinces. Take a round of the provincial specialty restaurants, and you can have almost all the local specialties, including *yak-kwa*, *yakbap*, *sinsollo*, *chuothag* and *Haeju kyoban*.

The Okryu Restaurant is a catering service that is famous for its Pyongyang *naengmyon* whose juice is refreshing to the deep of the heart and whose threads are sweet and pleasant. World-famous professional wrestler Inoki Kanji once had a double portion of the noodles in the restaurant when he was on a visit to Pyongyang. Former US president Jimmy Carter enjoyed *sinsollo* in the restaurant, the dish that won a special award at a world festival of delicacies. He praised it as a really nice dish.

In Korea families like to make different kinds of dishes for themselves on folk and national holidays. The national cuisine is making progress as required by the time. The tortoise broth was newly added to the list of national delicacies of Pyongyang *naengmyon*, green bean pancake, Pyongyang warm rice and catfish broth. Noodles with garnished meat served in a traditional Korean tray is prepared and served by renowned restaurants in Pyongyang, such as the Okryu Restaurant, the Chongnyu Restaurant and the Pyongyang Noodle House.



Sinsollo.

The Korean Cooks Association is conducting varieties of activities to promote the development of national dishes: nationwide festivals of national dishes, cooking contests and other kinds of events take place on a regular basis.

The Cooking Information Service is actively engaged in distribution of cooking techniques and data on national and foreign delicacies on the Internet.

An Nam Hui

White-bellied Black Woodpecker

WHITE-BELLIED BLACK woodpecker is indigenous to Korea. A beautiful and useful bird, it lives on harmful insects that do damage to woods. The bird was found for the first time in the summer of 1886. An all-season bird belonging to the woodpecker family, it has quite a big body, and looks like a black woodpecker. But they can be easily distinguished from each other, for the former is white in belly, flank and waist. Only the male has the red-colored auriculars. Its wing is usually 23-25 cm in length, and its sharp and hard bill is 6 cm long. Each of its feet consists of four toes, and its tail feather supports its body when clinging to the tree. It lives in thick forests of relatively dry regions, which are 200-300 m

above sea level and whose lowest temperature in winter is over -13 °C. It clings to 100-200-year-old big trees like chestnut tree,



oak tree, nut pine tree and zelkova tree, cutting a 6 cm-deep hole in their trunks to catch insects. The female in breeding years cuts a hole, which is about 10 cm in diameter and 50-60 cm deep, in the middle of an old tree and lays three or four white eggs at a litter between late April and mid-May. The DPRK designated the white-bellied black woodpecker as a living monument and fixed the relevant reserve for protection and proliferation of the birds. The reserve management system has been thoroughly established to suit the developing actual conditions, and the necessary ecological survey and research are conducted, thus increasing the number of the birds.

O Nam Chol

A Look Back on My Life



THEY SAY OLD FOLKS like to indulge in recollection. This is just the case with me, an old man of nearly 80 who came from the south of the divided country.

I was born in 1935 as the last son of a poor peasant with four children in the then Koesan Sub-county, Koesan County, North Chungchong Province when my country of Korea was under the Japanese imperialists' military occupation.

As I knew better I was burning with a desire for learning, but it was no better than a day dream in my family's situation. When I was nine years old, even my mother passed, leaving me, a poor child, in nobody's care.

One day nearly two years after my country was liberated (August 1945) my second brother—he had left with a hope to become a doctor—came to see me. He said he was an assistant at a hospital in Seoul, and asked me to live with him in Seoul. What was interesting about his suggestion was that the city had many schools, which might give me an access to learning. So, I went to Seoul as my brother

advised—which was a great determination for me as a country boy who had travelled no farther than the seat of my county.

My hope for a new life, however, was short-lived because my life in the metropolitan district was no better, for the American troops were enforcing a military rule, like the Japanese imperialists had done before they were defeated.

Over a year's time had passed before I earned some money to enter a local private school. But the burden of exorbitant tuition tormented me and my brother relentlessly all the time. One day I heard that in the northern half of my country there were schools everywhere and all children went to school thanks to popular policies of the Workers' Party of Korea. The story settled in my mind as a great envy. And I could hardly suppress my desire to have an opportunity to learn to my heart's content.

Around that time, in June 1950, the Korean war broke out at the instigation of the US imperialists. When the Korean People's Army liberated Seoul three days after the Fatherland Liberation War started, all the citizens turned out into the streets to welcome the KPA. Many of the young and middle-aged men volunteered to join the army; particularly, students were quite enthusiastic about the joining. Along with all my classmates I also became a soldier of the KPA voluntarily. It was an event that is still enshrined in my heart as the happiest one in my life, because I, a poor boy with a burning desire for learning, was blessed with a new life with the event in the gunfire.

My class were all included in a platoon and hastened southwards forcefully, for we had to catch up

with the main unit that was marching towards the south. I still remember my platoon leader. A graduate of Kim Il Sung University, he gave clear-cut answers to our questions, such as who was the mastermind of the Korean division and how it was that the workers and peasants in the southern half of Korea were still poor and miserable even after national liberation. He used to conclude his talk by saying that only when we followed General Kim Il Sung, who regarded the people as his God, would we be able to create a new world whose sovereign is the very people and accomplish our fury desire for learning. His speech we heard on our southward advance gave us a bright view of the world, and it was the source of our valiance with which we crossed the bloody Raktong River and overcame the trials of the strategic temporary retreat. When the platoon leader was the man I owe my spiritual rebirth to, the heavy machine gunner of my squad was the saviour of my physical life. He covered me with his own body against the shower of the enemy bullets. Nicknamed Phyongbukto old man by his comrades, he usually looked like a kind-hearted country man. He had no special learning, but at such a critical moment he unhesitatingly laid down his own life to save me. Before closing his eyes for good, he asked me to go to college when we won the war. Seeing him die heroically I felt something irresistible pushing me and was convinced that we would be able to win the war after all as we were such a kind of people. The conviction made me free of any turbulence in my mind when I was on a trek past my some way off home town along with my unit on our way of retreat.

The 60-odd years I have spent ►

► in the DPRK since the end of the war has justified my choice of life. Under the beneficial system of free education, I learned to my heart's content—up to college—and now have become a professor at an authoritative national university. In addition I enjoy public respect and preferential treatment as a war veteran who fought for the freedom and independence of the country.

I still have a desire unaccomplished—I wish the day when the people in my home town would also live happily in the world where genuinely popular policies are enforced. I always keep a picture of one Korea in my mind. I'm a teacher and the most proud part of the picture is occupied by the images of the children who learn to their heart's content in the sunny classroom with no idea of the tuition fee.

My desire for reunification became more fervent after I reunited with my families and relatives in the south in 2000 following the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration that year. When I told my nephews and nieces in the south that all my three children—to say nothing of me—had learned at university and were working at national organs, they were more than envious.

When June comes round, I like to see the photos of me taken with them and say to myself, "I'm crowned with the life's glory because I've kept the belief that nothing is impossible to attain when I'm faithful to the truth. And the belief is still adamant. I'm convinced that when our nation makes united efforts my home town in the south will also meet the world where all the dreams of the people will develop into reality."

I'm eager to see the day as soon as possible when I'll have a pleasant recollection seeing the photos of my reunited relatives in a reunified Korea.

*Professor Ha Jae Gyong,
Kim Chaek University
of Technology*

Compound Oligopeptide Produced by Industrial Method

Peptide is a physiological stimulant playing an important role as fighter against cancer, allergy and oxidation. It also helps prevent obesity and supplement calcium in human body. The material has been attracting attention worldwide since the 1980s. Its interest has recently risen sharply as foodstuffs and drinks containing peptide are known to have made the relations between athletes and gold medals much closer.

In the past some studies were made in Korea on the manufacture of oligopeptide by dint of zymotechnics, but its introduction was limited to the clinical and pharmaceutical sectors because of various difficult problems. Recently a vista was opened up to put the oligopeptide production on an industrial basis by the researchers of the Foodstuff Research Institute under the Branch Academy of Light Industrial Science, who won the top prize at the first national exhibition of sports sci-tech achievements held recently.

One day they happened to read a document on oligopeptide, which fascinated them instantly. The material is an ideal additive to health food: The human body absorbs it more than 16 times faster than amino acid; it can ensure enough calories even when the daily amount of food taken is cut by 30% from the normal rate, and it can decrease the amount of raw materials of foodstuff down to 30% of it.

The institute decided to complete this research task in a short span of time and formed a team.

Head Pyon Yong Nam of the team says, "We set it our target to use locally available materials. We knew we had to develop our own method of manufacture of peptide. We made up our mind to make compound oligopeptide with the widest range of application and buckled down to our task."

Anxiously groping for a breakthrough they paid attention to the principle of oligopeptide formation, part of the metabolic course of the human body, and succeeded in manufacturing the compound oligopeptide by an industrial method of using enzyme at low cost.

The compound oligopeptide-based nutrient and drink were favourably commented upon by the general public. In particular, the drink helps recover from fatigues over 1.2 times faster than the *Omija* syrup, and has a more than 1.5 times longer period of efficacy than normal drinks. Those products were highly spoken of at the 29th sci-tech festival of the State Academy of Sciences, too. The new compound oligopeptide-containing preparations were developed to use the existing foodstuff production processes as they are and thus can be easily introduced with little investment.

Pyon says, "The usage of compound oligopeptide will be further expanded. We will make deeper studies to contribute to the improvement of the people's health and help our athletes win more gold medals."

Rim Sang Jun

It's Worth Working

THE KANGSO MUSHROOM Farm in Kangso District, Nampho City, has many visitors these days, who want to learn its techniques of mushroom growing. The sea of well-cultivated and bumper mushrooms evokes great admirations. "We owe our successful mushroom growing entirely to our good workers. But they say the good equipment ensures their achievement," says Kim Yong Il, technical instructor of the farm.

In fact the farm had little progress for several years until one day in June last year when the employees came to receive the appeal "Let us usher in a fresh heyday on all the fronts of socialist construction by creating the 'Masikryong Speed'" which DPRK supreme leader Kim Jong Un sent to the builders of the Masikryong Ski Resort and all the working people of the country.

The next day there took place an employees' meeting without any formality in the general manager's office. They said: The supreme leader said in his appeal that the work of providing the people with a condition for a

comfortable life consists in a campaign to defend socialism. Now we have got a better idea of the importance of our work. Our farm has an important role to play in improving the people's eating habit.

Many problems were discussed in detail to bring about an upswing in the production of mushroom. Good initiatives were proposed at the meeting, including the one to lay a foundation to produce mushroom by an industrial method.

According to the programme for increased production, the workers buckled down to the project to modernize the rooms of sterilization, fungi inoculation, fungi culture and mushroom cultivation. The most difficult task was to establish a comprehensive monitoring system in the cultivation section. Many light electrical appliances and electronic facilities were needed. Informed of this, the senior officials of the city gave a great assistance to them, saying that they should contribute something to the effort to improve the people's eating habit. In this way, the modernization of the

farm made progress.

While acquiring enough equipment to produce mushroom on a scientific basis, the farm gave priority to the spore production. In close contact with researchers of the Central Mushroom Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, they made efforts to select suitable fungi for each season, increase the rate of successful fungi culture and make many substrate blocks to make the mushroom production intensive.

Proper arrangements were made for planting fungi in certain periods so that mushrooms could be produced uninterruptedly. The workers were put in charge of each process of production and encouraged to fulfil their responsibility in cultivating mushroom. In order to produce mushroom even in winter, they selected low-temperature kinds and developed new methods of mushroom substrate treatment suited to winter conditions with a low density of various germs. As a result, in January this year favourable conditions were made to produce several kinds of mushrooms in large quantities, and thus the production came to be boosted.

The establishment of good mushroom production bases and the increased yield fueled the workers' enthusiasm, which has resulted in a still higher yield.

Thanks to their sincere efforts, war veterans, disabled ex-soldiers and inhabitants in the district are supplied mushroom. Chu Chang Su, production manager, says, "We'll supply more and more mushrooms to the people and in all seasons."

Sim Yong Jin



A Great Pride

By Kim Hae Song

(Continued from the last issue)

SUDDENLY THERE RANG Sun A's voice calling out from the mouth of the ventilation passage, "The gas is still in there. You'll be suffocated. Come out quickly."

Jin Hak heard her clearly. He told her inwardly, "Thank you, Sun A. Your presence is a great encouragement to me. Now I remember grandma said loneliness is the most terrible thing. I'm not lonely—never."

Jin Hak paused for a breath, when he saw a dark figure looming ahead in the light of his torchlight. Surprised, he glared at it. A man with an antigas mask and a heat-proof helmet on was crawling up to him. When the man reached Jin Hak he poked his torch into Jin Hak's chest and pointed to the outside. *Isn't it uncle? He must have recognized me. He is angry,* Jin Hak told himself. He turned back with difficulty and began to crawl out.

The uncle came out of the emergency exit, put off the mask and breathed in hungrily. Then he crumbled down, unable to support the burden of his own body smeared all over. Jin Hak and Sun A took him by the shoulder, but they were at a loss what to do.

Kuk San came to after a good while, and groped for Jin Hak's hand. He opened his mouth to babble out, "You silly boy, your good head is a treasure to us. Don't be so..."

"You're more self-righteous than me," Jin Hak declared. "Why don't you have a rest after such a long journey? And without even a word to us..."

"You know, the thirsty man digs a well. We've got to make haste to make our own fashion

clothes lest our colleagues would be attracted to foreign ones." Now the chief engineer rummaged the front of his heat-proof coat to produce a bag as small as a fist. He murmured, "I've found the exhaust almost blocked because the gas was poorly emitted. Here is the sample of the soot on the mouth. You have to make an analysis of this and transform the gas exhaust and the gas channel. This may be the secret of success."

Jin Hak received the sample, when Sun A said in tears, "You've got to go to hospital immediately."

"It's all right, Sun A," Kuk San said soothingly, "I don't want to hear the rumour that the chief engineer had a hide-and-seek like children. I think I'd be refreshed if I have a gulp of kimchi juice." He joked as if there were nothing serious about him, although breathing in and out with difficulty.

Suddenly Sun A walked some steps away and turned back. Then there came a sound of sobbing. Jin Hak approached her in haste, asking, "What's the matter? If you have anything wrong ..."

"The chief engineer ... and you...are...so..." she could hardly complete her sentence.

"So what?" Jin Hak urged.

"So nice."

The whisper from Sun A's mouth touched Jin Hak's heart-string warmly.

"Sun A, I swear I won't be a man any longer if I have another failure. You believe me, don't you? The day we are successful, we'll go to see my grandma together and ..." Without finishing his words Jin Hak took Sun A by the hand.

Guessing what the boy was going to say, the girl was embar-

rassed, leaving her hands in his, and chirped, "Don't mention it, please. I could hardly be your match."

Kuk San, his hands resting on the shoulders of the two young people, let out a happy stream of words, "I admire you. You're having the prime of life."

The chilly wind stopped now, and it was a spring night with a sweet scent.

A month later the test kiln produced cotton-white lumps of magnesia clinker. The quality was unbelievably excellent. Holding the table of quality analysis from the analysis office of the factory, Kuk San laughed a hearty laugh, saying, "Now we can produce as much magnesia clinker as we want, and that with our own fuel, at the lowest cost and at the highest level of quality. We can announce the supplementary heating is a cutting-edge technology of our own."

People present there gave a roar of applause, looking for the man who deserved the congratulatory bouquet. But Jin Hak was not in sight. At the moment he was on the phone with his grandma. The chief engineer and Sun A made a round of the kilns before stepping into the control office. There they saw Jin Hak pouring words into the mouth-piece in a choked voice, "Grandma ...I ...want to ...tell this...happy news ... to you first. No, don't...cry, grandma. I'm going to...take Sun A ...to you ... this evening. Please wait for me."

Kuk San hugged Jin Hak in his arms the moment he laid down the receiver. Sun A's eyes were tearful as well. The men with a great pride belonged to the new generation of Koreans.

The end

Mt. Ryongak (1)

MT. RYONGAK IS SITUATED between Ryongaksandong, Ryongsandong and Ryongbong-ri in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. Standing 292 m above sea level, the mountain is topped by a curiously-shaped rocky cliff. Various kinds of flowers bloom from season to season, green forests, scarlet-tinged maple leaves in autumn and the like make up superb scenery. Small wonder that the mountain is known as “Mt. Kumgang in Pyongyang.” The name of Ryongak comes from the shape of the mountain which looks like a dragon on the point of soaring into the air. Possessed of 20-odd peaks of extraordinary beauty—including

Tae and Sol peaks—and tens of well-wooded valleys, the mountain has trimmed up its features for ages.

At present over 600 species of plants are distributed there. Forests are mostly made up of pine trees, and there are also some mixed forests including oak trees. Also visible are rare plants that consist in only one species of one genus in Korea. In spring the fragrant smell of flowers floats in the air and in autumn the whole mountain is ablaze with autumnal tints, thus presenting an enchanting view.

Mt. Ryongak has a number of important trees. One of them is the Ryongaksan zelkova which stands next to the Pobun Her-

mitage. The 500-odd-year-old tree was designated as State Natural Monument No. 19 for its curious shape and pedagogical importance. It is 18 m tall, its trunk being 5 m round at the breast height and its bottom girth 7.1 m. Its trunk forks off into three at the height of 6 m. Another monumental tree is *Toona sinensis* Roem. It has been growing since around the year 1900. It was designated as State Natural Monument No. 20 because it indicates the northern limit of the kind's distribution in the western region of Korea and it is of significance in conducting research into its specific features related to biology and botanical distribution and in giving an additional charm to the local scenery. It is 12 m high, its girth being 1.9 m at the bottom and approximately 1.5 m at the breast height. Speaking of the monumental ginkgo tree in Mt. Ryongak, it has grown for over 500 years along with the Pobun Hermitage boasting of its long history. At first three young ginkgo trees were planted, but in ►

The Chilsong Pavilion.



▶ the course of their growth over a long period of time, these trees gradually put themselves together to get into one. The monument is of great importance not only in scientific research but also in view of the scenery of Mt. Ryongak. Accordingly, it was designated as State Natural Monument No. 472. It is 28 m high and the trunk is 3.7 m round at the bottom. The *Sophora japonica L.*, standing in front of the Pobun Hermitage, has grown spontaneously since around the year 1840. Designated as State Natural Monument No. 22 on account of its importance in scientific research, it is now under protection. It is 16.5 m high, its bottom girth being 2.6 m and its girth at the breast height 2.2 m. The main branches come out at the height of 4.5 m and the crown looks like a round umbrella.

Also to be seen in Mt. Ryongak are historical sites reflective of the talent of the Korean nation, such as the Pobun Hermitage and the Ryonggok School.

The Pobun Hermitage.



The Ryonggok School.

The hermitage is located halfway up the south side of the mountain. Fitting in well with multifarious rocks, evergreen trees and fences roofed with Korean-style tiles and decorated with gorgeous patterns, the Buddhist sanctuary reminds one of the old manners of far-off

days. Belonging to the Yongmyong Temple built in the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) it was rebuilt in the middle years of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). At that time it consisted of the main hall, the Sansin Pavilion, the Chilsong Pavilion, the Toksong Pavilion, etc.

The Ryonggok School nestling in a quiet place was a private educational institution set up in the period of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty. It was first built in 1656 and rebuilt later.

Mt. Ryongak is now a great public resort for its retaining of cultural relics of great historical interest.

Kim Il Ryong

The Mask Dance

IN KOREA MASK DANCES were created in various circumstances including work sites and battlefields in the primitive age. In hunting, the primitive men used to threaten the game animals by covering their faces with dreadful masks, or wear masks of birds or meek animals in hunting weak game. Sometimes, they would approach the game with masks resembling the beasts themselves. In battles they would wear various kinds of masks to surprise and threaten the enemy.

With the lapse of time people began to express various aspects of life including labour scenes and wars in an artistic way with masks. At the time they called them mask play or mask dance.

The mask was made of paper, wood, hemp, silk, gourd and various other kinds of materials and was decorated with fur or coloured papers. Most of the primitive hunting dances were mask dances played by people wearing skins of wild animals and mimicking their movements.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms mask dance assumed some artistic features. In particular, in Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) it developed into a unique form of mask dance bunch called *kiakmu*, and became widely spread. After the Three Kingdoms, it developed into various kinds of mask dance plays, combined with popular plays, annual events and local folk plays.

The masks developed in various styles, so that they were exported even to Japan. Even now the masks which had been used in the old days are kept in the Horyuji Temple in Nara, Japan.

Along with the mask dance, the masks developed further in



A scene from the Pongsan mask dance.

the period of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) following the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392). Exemplary were the *sandaejap-guk* play in the days of the Koryo Dynasty and its developed branches—the mask play of Hwanghae Province and the *ogwangdae* play of the south coastal region. Furthermore, the Pongsan and Kangryong mask dances of Hwanghae Province have been handed down to the current century and are widely known as the typical mask dances of Korea.

The Korean mask dances could be divided into different classes by localities, but mostly they reflected the farming population's life or expressed the people's hatred and derision of the feudal exploiters. In spite of their limitations of the times and class bias, they are an important component of the folk dance heritage of Korea for they reflect the Korean people's life, feelings and aspirations at the time and are varied in their forms and rich in their movements. Among others, the Pongsan mask dance, as a folk dance heritage of the longest history handed down in the

Pongsan area of North Hwanghae Province, is highly prized even today for its progressive and popular thematic ideas and artistic flavours. In the past the dancing event took place only once a year and the mask dancers took much pains to make their annual event a great success. The mask was made of papers pasted together several folds over. In the evening people danced under masks by the light of many campfires. After the dance, the mask dancers threw their masks into the campfires to burn. They made new masks for the next year's dance festival. Regarding the making of the masks as a very sacred work, the Pongsan mask dancers used to make them in a remote mountain recess, it is said. They danced to the accompaniment of flute, fife, *janggu*, drum and so on.

Today, the Pongsan mask dance is further developed in accord with the trend of the times and the people's sentiments. The Pongsan mask dance, an open-air play in the past, is now performed in theatres drawing a large audience.

Sim Yong Jin

Patriotic Martyr An Jung Gun



ABOUT 9 A.M., OCTOBER 26, 1909 the sounds of several gunshots rang out on the platform of Haerbin Railway Station, China, followed by an outcry "Long live Korea!" It came from Korean youth An Jung Gun, a patriotic martyr.

An Jung Gun was born in Haeju, South Hwanghae Province in 1879. In his early years he studied the history of Korea and was interested in the patriotic activities of the ancestors. When the Japanese imperialists robbed Korea of its sovereign rights by cooking up the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" in 1905, he embarked on the road of anti-Japanese national salvation. In 1906 he founded the Samhung School in Ryonggang County, South Phyongan Province, and carried on an enlightenment movement to awaken the popular masses in the then Phyongan and Hwanghae provinces in contact with champions of the patriotic cultural movement in Seoul.

When the Japanese imperialists dethroned King Kojong (1864-1907) and forcibly dissolved the Korean army on the pretext of the Emissary Incident at The Hague (Kojong sent an emissary to the International

Peace Conference held in The Hague in an attempt to expose the illegality of the "Ulsa Treaty"), he searched for a new method of struggle for restoration of national rights. So he went to Vladivostok, Russia, with a determination to fight against the Japanese imperialists beyond the bounds of a passive cultural movement of the past. There he organized an Anti-Japanese Righteous Volunteers unit and became the chief of its general staff. He advanced into North Hamgyong Province, Korea, with an armed unit and dealt blows to the Japanese aggression forces in many places. But the struggle of the Righteous Volunteers was doomed to failure in the fight against the fearful odds of the Japanese forces.

Nevertheless, even after the disbandment of the volunteer army his anti-Japanese patriotic fervour did not cool down. In Vladivostok he swore to dedicate his life to the cause of Korea's independence with other comrades of the independent movement including Ri Kang, U Tok Sun, Ryu Tong Ha and Jo To Son and formed the Tanji Union. Soon they got information that Ito Hirobumi was coming to Haerbin. Ito, president of the Japanese Privy Council, was the sworn enemy of the Korean people. He had masterminded many dirty intrigues for Japan's aggression of Korea from the late 19th century. Especially, in 1905 he took the lead in robbing Korea of its national rights by forging

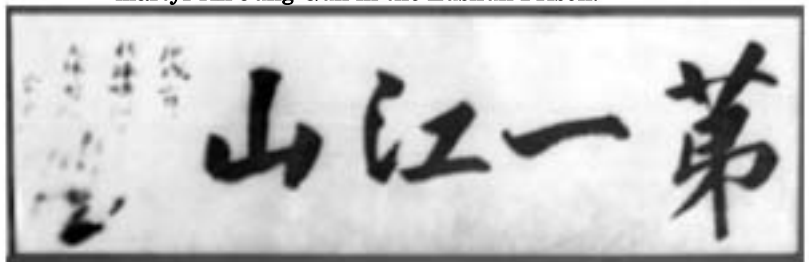
the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" by means of military blackmail and deception. On October 26 An Jung Gun shot Ito when he was getting out of the train with Kawakami, consul general in Haerbin, Tanaka, director of the Manchuria Railway Company, and Mori, secretary of the consulate, and then vehemently cried out "Long live Korea!"

The incident was praised by the people at home and abroad as a heroic action, and they waged a dynamic campaign for his release from jail. In the Lushun Prison, too, An was faithful to his national principle. He condemned the Japanese imperialists as aggressors and as disturbers of Asian peace. He expressed his determination to fight against the invaders to the last, insisting that the punishment of Ito was an eruption of the pent-up resentment and indignation of the Koreans against the Japanese brutes who were forcing the fate of slaves upon the Korean people. In February 1910 the Japanese imperialists held a court merely for form's sake and sentenced him to death. On March 26 the sentence was executed. While in the prison An wrote, "The Most Beautiful Country" with a brush, and also wrote a long article entitled *Asian Peace*.

Recently, a museum dedicated to his memory was inaugurated at Haerbin Railway Station in China.

Kim Yong Won

"The Most Beautiful Country" written by patriotic martyr An Jung Gun in the Lushun Prison.



Driving Force of National Reunification

THE ISSUE OF REUNIFICATION OF THE Korean nation consists in reconnecting the broken vein of the nation split into north and south and achieving national unity. On the other hand, it means establishing national sovereignty all over the country. After all, the Korean people themselves are responsible for the solution of the reunification question. They have a vital interest in the issue of national reunification, and so have to fight their way forward to attain the goal. In fact, they will be the master of the reunified country, and they have the strength to bring about national reunification. It is obvious that only when the Korean people who earnestly desire reunification join their efforts can the issue of reunification be solved smoothly at an earliest date. The division of Korea for nearly 70 years has severely impaired the unified development of the nation and caused untold miseries and distresses for its people. Cultural gap between the north and the south is widening while the national identity of the homogeneous people that was formed through a long history is breaking down. Moreover, mutual mistrust and confrontation between the two parts of Korea for scores of years put the nation in danger of nuclear disaster.

The Korean nation should hold fast to the position of independent reunification as the fundamental principle. Herein lies the basic guarantee for protecting national dignity from foreign interference and achieving with credit the cause of the country's reunification in the common interests of the nation. The life and prosperity of the nation rely on national reunification. Only when the country is reunified will the people be able to live comfortably and demonstrate the dignity and honour of the nation. Foreign forces can on no account be the driving force for reunification. It is foreign forces that divided Korea, and their obstructive schemes have hindered the reunification until now.

In January last the DPRK National Defence Commission announced an important proposal and then an open letter with the intention to improve the disquieting inter-Korean relations with the concerted efforts of the Korean nation itself. The foreign forces, however, labelled the DPRK's proposal as a "camouflaged peace offensive" or something for "propaganda effect," proceeding to aggravate the tensions in the Korean peninsula. This is enough to show that the foreign forces have no stake in Korea's reunification and that they are hampering it as ever.

The history of the national reunification movement shows that when the foreign forces' interference in the reunification business is tolerated or permitted, it will only lead to piles of obstacles on the road of reunification, far from helpful to it. The Korean people, the master of the reunification issue, should solve it independently by the concerted efforts of their own. The milestone for it is the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

In June 2000, a north-south summit meeting took place for the first time in history, and the North-South Joint Declaration was adopted, promoting reconciliation and unity of both sides and furthering the development of inter-Korean relations to the delight of the fellow countrymen. In this course, the north-south dialogue opened a new chapter of trust and cooperation to solve practical problems, getting out of the old rut. Severed railways and roads left in negligence for over half a century were re-linked, and air and sea routes were reopened. Distrust dissipated and cooperation and exchange expanded. All the fellow countrymen in north, south and abroad were firmly convinced of the validity and vitality of the concept "by our nation itself" witnessing the stirring events of the June 15 reunification time.

Adhering to the principle of solving the issue of reunification independently by the Korean people themselves is the only way towards reunification. The point is to have the right stance of valuing the nation above everything else and joining forces with each other in the interests of the nation. All the Koreans in north, south and abroad should take part in the reunification movement like master with the sense that they are its driving force. True patriotism lies in the struggle for national reunification. When Koreans have the spirit of national independence valuing national dignity as dearly as life and a strong sense of independence that none but the Korean people themselves can be the master to settle the reunification issue, the reunification movement will be able to develop into a cause of the whole nation.

Anyone who calls himself a Korean should join in the struggle for national reunification without hesitation. Reunification will come only when all the Koreans turn out boldly in the struggle for it just as they did step forward in great strides for national unity with the publication of the historic North-South Joint Declaration.

Ko Myong Nam

The US Wants Another War in Korea

SIXTY-FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE the US imperialists triggered off the Korean war in an attempt to strangle the less-than-two-year-old Democratic People's Republic of Korea. For the war the Americans mobilized even the armed forces of 15 of its vassal nations and the Japanese militarists in addition to their own forces and the south Korean army. But the war ended in their defeat, bringing them only disgrace they had experienced ever in their history.

Despite the Korean Armistice Agreement concluded in July 1953, the imperialists have been stuck to the policy of aggression and provocation against the DPRK—in disregard of the fair proposals and sincere efforts of the Oriental nation to substitute the armistice agreement with a stable peace mechanism. None of the US's provocations was successful, though.

Following the Koreans' capture of the American armed spy ship *Pueblo* in January 1968, which intruded into the territorial waters of Korea, the US had to send a letter apologizing for its acts of espionage and hostility and assuring that it would keep its naval vessels from intruding into the Korean territorial waters. The *Pueblo* captured by the Korean People's Army is anchored at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang.

The US still maintains massive armed forces in and around the Korean peninsula and is engaged in reckless war exercises to accomplish its ambition of invasion of the DPRK. More than half of the American nuclear subs are stationed in the Asia-Pacific region, and most of the vessels loaded with SM-3 interceptor missiles are stationed in the Pacific. Giving deaf ear to strong protest and denunciation from the Koreans and other peoples around the world, the US played with fire again across south Korea from last February by conducting Key Resolve and Foal Eagle exercises along with the south Korean military, which are annual rehearsals of war against the DPRK. These undisguised moves of aggression are posing a grave military threat to the DPRK, and the situation in the Korean peninsula, the hottest spot in the world, is showing no sign of easing.

The US's persistent pursuance for aggression policy for control of the whole of the peninsula is aimed at achieving its strategic ends. It is seeking an undivided sway in the Asia-Pacific region that has abundant human and material resources and whose economy is developing rapidly. It sees strategic importance in the peninsula which is located in the

crucial position, and it wants to use the peninsula as a stronghold to contain and control regional powers. In particular, feeling quite uneasy about the local nations making fast progress in recent years and sealing close ties between themselves, the US is leaving no stone unturned to check the process of their development and unity. Part of the scheme is to take control of the whole Korean peninsula, for which it is eager to start another war against the DPRK. The 30th UN General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding the "UN Command" be dismantled immediately and that the American troops withdraw from south Korea. But the US, far from pulling its troops from south Korea, is reinforcing its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region on the absurd pretext of the "threat" from the DPRK.

Once the Russian foreign minister disclosed that it is unjustifiable for the US to continue to deploy strategic bombers and carrier-led fleets and MD components near the border of Russia in order to "ward off the threat from the DPRK" and that it is an unwise attempt to use the situation for its own purpose of expanding its military potentials in the Asia-Pacific region in an unbalanced way.

The American plot to start another war is a typical sign of its ambition to conquer the world by force. It is now doing whatever it can for the purpose of world control. The basic resort lies in military occupation. Before the Iraqi war the Americans carried out a massive campaign of propaganda and nuclear inspections of the country. This was far from intended to settle the Iraqi problem in a peaceful way but to cut the loss of its strength in the imminent war it had chosen.

Of all the American ways and means employed to strangle the DPRK, including economic sanctions, occupying the nation by force of arms is its basic choice. The occupation of the southern half of the Korean peninsula, arms buildup and joint military exercises it has conducted for over 60 years since the Korean Armistice Agreement was concluded, and the instigation for closer bond between south Korea and Japan are all geared to a plan of armed invasion. Military provocations take place one after another on the part of the US to give vent to war.

But there is not yet any war again in the peninsula. This is entirely attributable to the DPRK's will to maintain peace and its retaining of powerful deterrence.

Jang Kyong Il

Re-live the Past?

THE RIGHTIST INCLINATION OF JAPAN is now becoming more pronounced than ever before since the end of the Second World War. Premier Abe announced in his New Year opinions early this year that the struggle to regain a strong Japan had now begun. Then he argued about the need to further promote a nationwide discussion on amendment of the Constitution.

Abe intends to amend Article 9, the core of the “pacifist Constitution,” which goes that Japan shall renounce war for good and shall not possess land, sea, air and other similar combat strength or permit the state right of belligerency. With this he pursues the permission of the exercise of the right to collective defence and the getting of a “national defence forces” instead of the Self-Defense Forces. In the final analysis, his aim is to reform the Constitution to regain the right of belligerency it lost with its defeat in the war and make the Self-Defense Forces into an elite army of the world level, that is, to make Japan a normal state allowed to fight a war, or a war state.

Seeking such an underhand plot, the Japanese authorities make uninterrupted challenges against stark historical facts and defend their history of aggression by visiting the Yasukuni Shrine. Early last year Abe sang the song *Kimigayo* and said it was the first step to regain Japan, and at the end of the year paid a visit to the Yasukuni Shrine against the opposition of the international community. His passion for militaristic rush has been raging since early this year. Instead of learning a lesson from their defeat, the ultra-right conservatives have pushed modernization of the SDF and overseas military expansion by dispatching SDF to different parts of the world, claiming that they had been beaten because they were weak in strength. Recently they built a large-sized vessel similar to a carrier and purchased subs, destroyers and other modern naval vessels to bolster the maritime SDF’s mobile attacking capability and long-range operations potentials.

Japan is now prepared for all military purposes for overseas aggression. Military experts comment that the insular nation is no inferior to any other military powers in war potentials. In an article about

the assessment of Japan’s military capabilities, a foreign journal exposed that the country has now obtained an immense capability to fight a war after its long-standing, painstaking pursuance.

A country with resurgent militarism and perfect preparations for reinvasion is just what Abe calls a “strong Japan.” When the world is apprehensive about its heading for militarism, Abe, while mouthing that “there’s no change in the path of Japan as a peaceful nation since the war,” is making an absurd argument about a certain nation’s threat. By the “threat” he means “threat” from the DPRK. Historically, Korea has never invaded other nations, but suffered from invasion by foreign forces and is still under the threat from the US and Japan. For many centuries Japan has made inroads into Korea and actively joined the US in its aggression policy. At the moment it is presenting itself as the shock brigade in the implementation of the Americans’ world strategy. This is to attain its own aim of Korean reinvasion.

It is well known that Japan’s strategic target is to accomplish its “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” by becoming the leader of Asia. A defence research centre in Japan issued a report in which it stated that the theatre of Japan’s military operations is much greater than that envisaged in the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” and that the SDF has already been given the order “Forward to the Asia-Pacific.” Japan’s theory on the “threat” from the DPRK boils down to its pretext for aggression of the country and furthermore a curtain for the accomplishment of its ambition of Asian conquest.

The international community gave the war criminal nations heavy penalties after the Second World War. This was aimed at letting them know what the war criminals against humanity are doomed to and preventing such a catastrophic war from breaking out. That’s why Asia and the rest of the world, to say nothing of the general public of Japan itself, are voicing a strong opposition against the policy of the Japanese authorities for a war state.

Japan is strongly advised not to forget its history of defeat in overseas aggression.

Kim Il Bong

Three Tombs of Kangso and Murals of Four Deities

THE THREE TOMBS OF KANGSO IN Kangso District, Nampho, Korea, seem to date back to between the late sixth century and the early seventh century. Murals of the Four Deities found in the big and middle-sized ones of the cluster of three tombs are appreciated as masterpieces of the painting art of Koguryo. The paintings of the gods believed to guard the cardinal points are celebrated as the landmark articles in the world history of painting, to say nothing of the mediaeval history of Korean painting.

The murals of *Chongryong* (blue dragon) and *Hyonmu* (tortoise-serpent) found in the big tomb and the ones of *Paekho* (white tiger) and *Jujak* (red phoenix) in the medium-sized tomb show well the Koguryo people's extraordinary conception, visionary power and sharp observation of animals. Painted on the northern wall of the big tomb is *Hyonmu* symbolic of the god defending the northern side. Depicted in the centre of the mural is a serpent winding itself round the body of a tortoise. The two animals face each other, the serpent making an elastic circle round the tortoise.

The mural of *Paekho* in the medium-sized tomb is symbolic of the god in charge of the west. It delineates the fleet and intrepid qualities of tigers that jump across mountains using their strong fore and hind legs with their tails stretching out.

The mural of *Chongryong* painted on the eastern wall of the big tomb symbolizes the god in charge of the east. The dragon looks as if it were coming out at any moment with its fore legs high up, its mouth agape and its tongue thrust out. The painting carries great 3D effects and rhythmic qualities.

Visible on the southern wall of the medium-sized tomb is the picture of *Jujak*. The bird looks as if ready to take off, its wings unfolded fully and a *youiju* held in its own bill. (*Youiju* is a legendary magic stone that bestows omnipotence on him who acquires it.)

The Murals of the Four Deities, portraying the art of the Korean painting, are now carefully preserved as precious cultural heritage of the Korean nation. UNESCO registered 16 of the Koguryo tombs in Korea, including the Three Tombs of Kangso, as world cultural heritage.

Rim Ok



Hyonmu



Paekho



Chongryong



Jujak



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